

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Spending spree
Ireland has spent
millions of its oil
revenues (in the mind)
before it has seen a drop
of the stuff
Spending axe
Jock Bruce-Gardyne on
where the public
spending axe should fall
Spending talks



Alan Franks is deep in
pocket money
negotiations with his
children
Spending faith
Tube Investments has
changed its name and its
aims. Now it is relying on
the high street for new
profits. Business News
reports
Spending game
Computer Horizons
looks at how the games
craze is gripping Britain
Spending wickets
John Woodcock previews
the NatWest Trophy
semi-finals

£2.5bn bid by a Court for group

Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the
Australian entrepreneur, has
launched an extraordinary
£2.44bn takeover bid for the
Broken Hill Proprietary Com-
pany. The attempted buy-out of
the mining group - Australia's
largest company - would be one
of the world's biggest and
involves offering shares in an
obscure Western Australian
company of which Mr Holmes &
Court gained control on Friday
Page 13

Police plea

The police have made an urgent
appeal for information about
three men after a boy aged six,
one of identical twins, was
kidnapped and sexually assault-
ed

Boy to leave

The Soviet Embassy in
Washington said that Andrei
Bereznev, the diplomat's son
who may want to defect, is to
return to the Soviet Union
Leading article, page 11

Flush with cash

Figures released today will show
that the flow of cash into the
building societies by far exceeds
estimates and is more than
enough to meet the demand for
mortgages
Page 3

Lourdes fervour

The second and last day of the
Pope's visit to Lourdes was
marked by ceremony, religious
fervour and security measures
against the threat of trouble
from extreme left-wing groups
Page 6

Refusing to go

Mr Jim Nwobodo, Governor of
Anambra state in southern
Nigeria, is refusing to relinquish
office after being defeated in the
polls. He said the result had
been rigged
Page 6

Gelli exit

Signor Licio Gelli, head of the
outlawed Italian P2 Masonic
lodge, is believed to have flown
from a French airport after
disappearing from a Swiss
prison
Page 5

England win

England won the third Test
match by 127 runs when they
bowled New Zealand out for
219 at Lord's
Page 19

Leader page 11
Letters: On alternative medi-
cine, from Dr R. Hoffenberg,
and others; dumping at sea,
from Mr D. McTaggart and Mr
W. P. Shovelton
Leading articles: Defence
spending; Chad; political asy-
lum
Features, pages 8, 9, 10
Bernard Levin's verdict on
Bayreuth; election pressures on
Pinchot; in defence of the
hunt. Spectrum continues the
Biba saga. Fashion: glamour
makes a comeback
Obituary, page 12
Lord Wakefield of Kendal,
General Sir Robert Bray

Home News	2-4	Diary	10
Overseas	4-6	Events	24
Arts	7	Letters	11
Bridge	12	Science	12
Business	13-18	Sport	19-21
Chess	2	TV & Radio	23
Church	12	Theatre, etc	23
Court	12	Universities	12
Crossword	24	Weather	24
		Wills	12

Liberal and SDP grassroots merger under way

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A merger between the Liberal and Social Democratic parties is under way in many parliamentary constituencies, regardless of both parties' leaders, according to a Liberal Party survey.

The survey of the performance of the two parties working together in 278 representative constituencies at the general election found that Liberal associations backing the Alliance outnumbered those opposing it by seven to one.

The evidence that the overwhelming majority of Liberals regard the Alliance as a success and want the relationship to become still closer comes as a boost to Mr David Steel as he prepares to face renewed criticism from activists and some MPs over his leadership and the Alliance at the Liberal assembly next month.

Details of the survey are given today in an article by Mr John Griffiths, the Liberal Party president, in *Liberal News*.

He says that "in practical terms" mergers are now taking place in some constituencies and gives a warning that excessive pressure from the leadership would be counter-productive. A national share-out of seats, as at the election, could never work again, he said.

Mr Griffiths's comments, and the survey itself, add to the pressure coming from the Liberals and some sections of the SDP for a joint selection of

parliamentary candidates by members of both parties. David Owen, the SDP leader, is opposed to that idea along with many others in his party who wish the parties' separate identities to be preserved.

Mr Griffiths argues that the parties will have to devise a broad, democratically endorsed agreement in principle about the development of the Alliance, within which individual constituencies or groups of constituencies could take their own decisions.

"In my view, Liberals are now far less afraid that the SDP will dilute their radicalism, and the Social Democrats are less worried about being swallowed up by their local Liberal parties," he says.

The most striking feature of the survey of the associations was the way fighting the election together improved relations between Liberals and Social Democrats, according to Mr Griffiths.

Before the elections, relations in 42 per cent of the 110 SDP-led and Liberal-led seats were considered to be either good or excellent. Afterwards, that had increased to 66 per cent. Sixty-five per cent of SDP candidates were considered by their Liberal supporters to be good or excellent and 25 per cent average.

The Liberals were less com-

plimentary about the campaigns fought by their colleagues; 22 per cent of SDP campaigns were considered below average as against 5 per cent of Liberal campaigns.

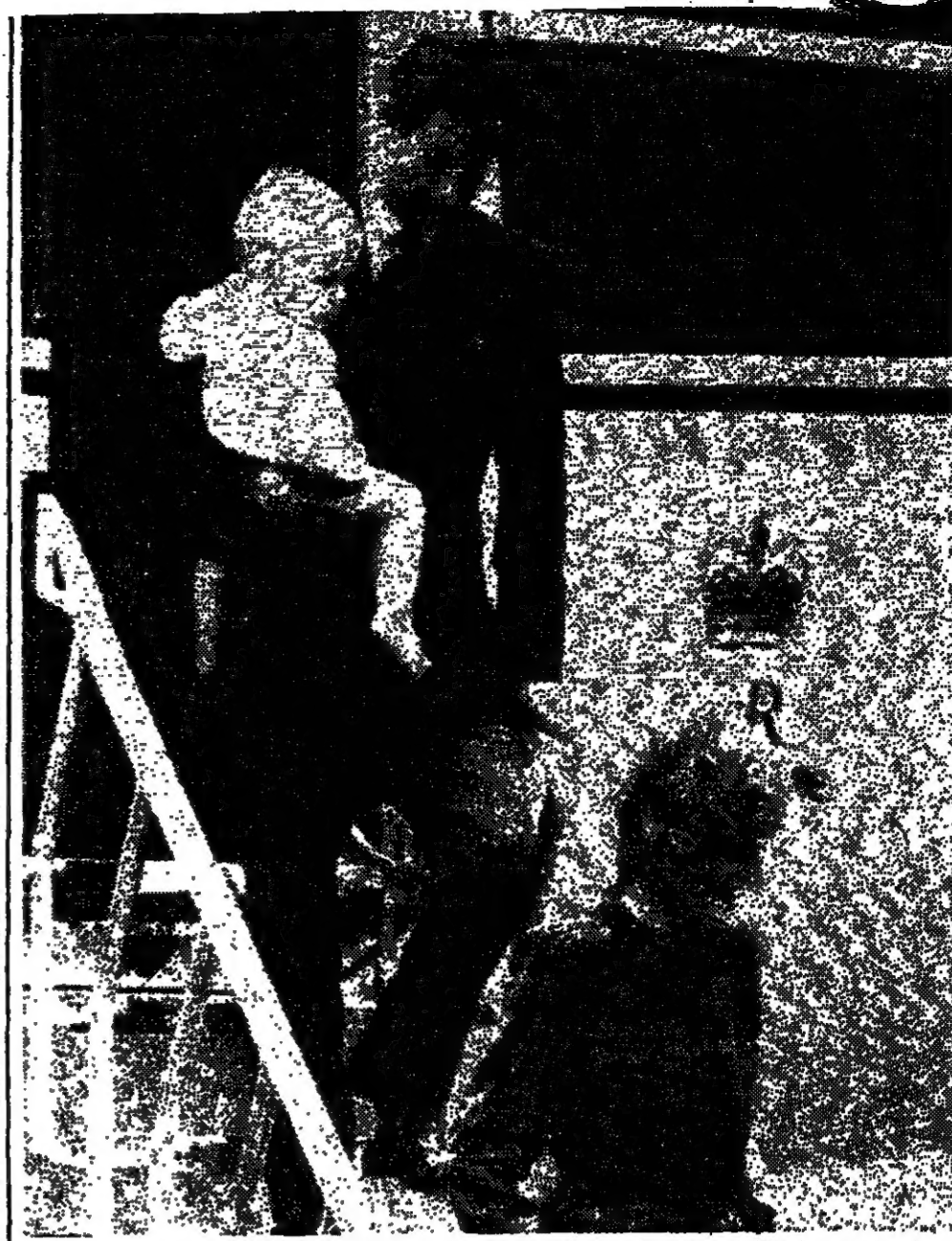
Mr Griffiths says the SDP emerged generally with great credit in terms of commitment to the Alliance. The SDP stuck to the agreed SDP/Liberal description on their posters over leaflets almost without exception, but only 26 per cent of Liberal seats did the same and 47 per cent made no reference at all to the SDP in print.

Most said that was for tactical reasons, and that the Alliance was otherwise working well in their constituencies.

The Liberals supplied 60 per cent of the Alliance workforce of over 100,000 helpers but the SDP provided almost two-thirds of the total Alliance expenditure of between £2.5m and £3m.

From the survey, Mr Griffiths said it was reasonable to deduce that for every association that was anti-Alliance there were seven for and one neutral.

In many constituencies, endorsement of the present allocation of seats, joint selection and even, in practical terms, merger was now taking place regardless of views expressed by the leaderships.



Stepping out: The Prince and Princess of Wales arrive with Prince William at Aberdeen airport on their way to Balmoral. More royal photographs, back page.

Reagan rejects Mexican appeal

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan directly rebuffed President de la Madrid of Mexico yesterday and made it clear that the United States has no intention of scaling down its huge show of military might in Central America.

He firmly rejected the Mexican President's appeal to abandon "shows of force" in the region. Occasionally, he insisted, the US must roar on behalf of democracy.

After failing to court support from the Mexicans in talks on Sunday, Mr Reagan travelled to New Orleans to face one of his most enthusiastic audiences, the veterans of foreign wars.

He told their annual convention that US military aid to El Salvador, together with US military exercises now under way in Central America, were like citizens' patrols keeping an eye on troublemakers and bullies in their neighbourhoods.

He said he was intent on seeing that the Soviet Union and the Cubans could not "brutally impose communist rule and deny individual freedom in the region".

Quoting Churchill's words that Britain has the lion's heart and he had the luck to give it a roar, Mr Reagan said: "America is the lion's heart of democracy. We have an obligation to give that democracy a voice, even an occasional roar. For too long our nation has been mute to the injustices of totalitarianism."

The tone of the speech is bound to broaden further the gulf between the United States and the Contadora Group - Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia - which is attempting to bring opposing factions to the negotiating table.

Mexico, the principal partner, believes that deepening US involvement in Central America is heightening tensions and damaging prospects for regional peace talks. Although publicly praising the Contadora Group's efforts, the Reagan administration does not rate highly its chances of success.

Mr Reagan told the war veterans, who have wholeheartedly endorsed the Administration's strategies in Central America, that US policies were leading to quiet, solid progress despite the "discouraging hype and hoopla" of its critics.

Meanwhile the State Department said yesterday it was not aware of reported plans for military cooperation between Guatemala and El Salvador, both allies of the United States. The plan, according to reports from Guatemala, involves the supply of small weapons and ammunition by Salvador in return for anti-guerrilla training by the Guatemalans.

Administration officials said it would require the authorization of the US Government before US-supplied weapons could be given to a third country.

Kinnock challenged by Hattersley

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Roy Hattersley last night issued a direct challenge to Mr Neil Kinnock, his main rival in the Labour Party leadership contest, when he gave an unequivocal backing for a statutory minimum wage linked to a comprehensive incomes policy.

He urged all the candidates in both the leadership and deputy leadership elections to reconcile support for a national minimum wage with backing for a general system of free collective bargaining.

Mr Hattersley's remarks, made in a speech in Leicester, were aimed at Mr Kinnock and Mr Michael Meacher, who appears likely to run him close for the deputy post if he fails to gain the leadership.

He was appealing over the heads of union leaders, who are opposed to an incomes policy, to the members of several unions who are being consulted in ballots on the leadership election.

Mr Hattersley's message to the low-paid workers in unions such as the National Union of Public Employees, the Confederation of Health Service

Employees, and the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, whose support his campaign camp regards as crucial, was that a free-for-all is damaging to their hopes of bettering their living standards.

He said that the only way to end working poverty was to establish a national minimum wage, determined and enforced by law. He had advocated its introduction for more than a decade but he welcomed all converts.

He then challenged Mr Kinnock and the other candidates: "So in the interests of clarity, I ask two questions of all October's candidates," Mr Hattersley said. "Do you support a statutory minimum wage? Do they believe, I might say do they really believe, that it can be introduced within a general system of free collective bargaining?"

An incomes policy was one of the items of institutional and structural change which was essential for the reinvigoration of the economy, he said.

One of 'Cowley 13' admits lying to join BL

By Paul Routledge and Clifford Webb

The official weekly journal of the Socialist League - the left-wing political group alleged to be behind a plot to seize union power at the plant.

She disclosed that an unnamed associate had helped her fill in the application last December for a job on the assembly production line at the Cowley plant.

But she said that she had lied about her academic and work record only to get a well-paid job in the car factory - and

had not been sent by the Socialist League with instructions to become a shop steward and create disruption.

Miss Grant, aged 24, whose hair is dyed orange in the punk style, dismissed reports that she had a degree in political science. Her academic record is confined to one year at Birmingham Polytechnic, where she changed courses to read sociology.

Speaking from a prepared text at breakfast speed, Miss Grant attacked the media for their "viciousness" over the last few days. Reporters had besieged her flat, rummaged in her dustbin, interviewed her milkman and next-door neighbour, she said.

Miss Grant wrote on the application form that she had two O levels and two CSE passes, whereas she has eight O levels and four A level passes.

She also admitted breaking regulations by giving the name of a company that was not the last company she worked for.



Miss Grant: "I am not an infiltrator."

Continued on back page, col 3

Shares rise as loan rate fears recede

Stocks and shares surged yesterday as investors saw the threat of higher interest rates recede and figures showing the consumer spending boom continuing.

The spending spree pushed the index of Britain's 30 top companies to record levels. Government stocks jumped higher than for several weeks and sterling recorded sharp gains against the dollar and Deutschmark.

The high street sales boom has continued at a near record level. The City had expected the rise in the mortgage rate to slow the spending trend last month.

Instead, figures released yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry show provisional retail sales just 0.5 per cent below the record June figure.

In the three months to July, sales were 1.5 per cent higher than a year ago. So far this year the average volume of trade has been 4 per cent higher than the average for last year.

Business News, page 13
Market report, page 18

Extra units flown to Chad

French confirm troop build-up

By Our Foreign Staff

French television reports that more troops were leaving for Chad from Paris and Nantes were confirmed last night by a French military spokesman in Ndjamena, capital of Chad.

He declined to say how many troops were on their way from France, but sources said the force could total 1,000 men by the end of the week.

The television reports said the troop left yesterday and a detachment had left Vannes, in southern Brittany, on Sunday night. The Defence Ministry declined to comment.

To the reports said the paratroopers would replace soldiers sent to instruct President Hissene Habre's 4,000-man army against Libyan-backed rebels in east and west Chad.

French troops in Chad have been ordered not to engage in fighting by their commander, Colonel Bernard Massana, has

French troops were moved over the weekend to the small western outpost of Salal, 220 miles north of Ndjamena, and to Abcheh, an Habre stronghold.

Mr Habre has appealed to France for air cover and direct intervention on the ground, but so far the Government has restricted its help to providing arms and advisers. The French are training Mr Habre's men to use anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons.

Le Monde said the French force in Chad was backed up by eight Transal transport aircraft, three Super-Puma transport helicopters, cannon, armoured cars, anti-tank missiles, Jeeps and lorries.

The newspaper said that because Libya lacked aircraft to refuel its warplanes they could not fly beyond Koro Toro in northwest Chad and Oum

Chalouba in northwest Chad, both now in rebel hands.

Only Libya's six Tupolev high-altitude bombers could travel far enough to attack Abcheh. The security belt established by French intervention would be, and surely not be, chance, just at the limit of the radius of action of most of Libya's planes.

In Ndjamena, Mr Soumaila Mahamat, the Information Minister, said the creation of three heavily-armed French military strongpoints had halted, at least temporarily, the southward advance of the rebels.

He said the help of the French instructors, though considerable, would not be enough to throw back the invading forces if Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, ordered a new advance.

Early August car sales set 225,000 record

By Our Motoring Correspondent

A record number of at least 225,000 new cars were sold in the first 10 days of August as motorists rushed to be the first in their street with the "A" prefix registration plate.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said yesterday that its computer was trying to cope with the flood of registrations. "At least another 10,000 cars were sold in those first 10 days, but we have just not been able to process them yet," a representative said.

Sales are at least 27 per cent more than in the same 10 days last year, and indicate that the highest-ever August sales in 1982 of 301,977 will be beaten by an even bigger margin than the 25,000 which most manufacturers were forecasting only two months ago.

"We could well see 360,000 registrations" an Austin Rover executive said last night.

Ford continues to dominate

the market with a 29.9 per cent share, compared with BL's 19 per cent and Vauxhall/Opel's 14.6 per cent. The Escort, the Sierra and the Fiesta hold first, second and fourth places respectively in the top ten best sellers' list, with BL's Metro taking third place.

Austin/Rover is delighted with 41,766 registrations, an improvement of 54 per cent on the first 10 days of August last year. But there are already fears that the sales leap is bringing forward too much of the business normally conducted in the closing months of the year.

As in the past, it could result in short-time working. Importers' total share of the market was down from a little more than 60 per cent to 57.4 per cent. This includes a fall in Japanese imports from 12.6 per cent last August to 10.74 per cent in the first 10 days of this month.

Image of Soviet super-hero takes a knock

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The conventional image of the Soviet spaceman as a super-hero took a knock yesterday when a cosmonaut revealed in *Pravda* that space flight made him irritable and depressed.

Almost an entire page of the paper was taken up with unusually frank extracts from the diary of Mr Valentin Lebedev, the flight engineer, who with Lieutenant-Colonel Anatoly Bereznev set up an endurance record of 211 days in space on board the orbiting station Salyut 7 last year.

Cosmonauts are normally presented to the Soviet public as free from human frailties, but Mr Lebedev's diary, covering May to December, is a record of trials and tribulations

punctuated by wonder at the beauty of the slowly spinning Earth below.

Mr Lebedev reflects on the difficulties, the intensive training and the "debris of human relationships" which led up to the historic flight. Typical entries thereafter read: "The days are getting harder to get through," "did not sleep at all, thought about home," "another nerve racking day, took me ages to get to sleep, Tolya (Colonel) Bereznev" didn't sleep at all."

The extracts show that Mr Lebedev and Colonel Bereznev resented two successive visits by visiting Soyuz space crews and feared they would disrupt the relationship the two men had built up on the space



Soviet heroes: Colonel Bereznev (left) and Mr Lebedev on the eve of their space flight.



Soviet heroes: Colonel Bereznev (left) and Mr Lebedev on the eve of their space flight.

station. Mr Lebedev refers to one Soyuz crew as "the French" since it included the French cosmonaut Jean-Loup Christen.

Noting that the food on board Salyut 7 was inedible (except for the soup) Mr Lebedev remarks: "There's nothing to feed them with, we think they'll bring their own". Last week *Red Star* published an account by Colonel Vladimir Titov of an incident in

April in which a Soyuz crew under his command failed to dock with the space station and nearly collided with it. The articles appear to be part of a Kremlin attempt to give an increasingly sophisticated readership more convincing and realistic accounts of space and military exploits.

The hazardous return of Mr Lebedev and Colonel Bereznev to Earth last December in a blinding snowstorm was graphically described by papers

The Lebedev diary yesterday showed that Soviet space technology had also failed to provide adequate washing facilities. It is, however, permeated by a longing for the Russian homeland, something for which most Russians will forgive any shortcomings, even in supermen.

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100 pcs Old Persian & Avaroz Rugs	all sizes	£120-£350
80 pcs Super Washed Chinese	3x2, 4x2, 5x2	£55-£280
60 pcs Fine Chinese (self-wash)	5x3, 6x4	£450 each
46 Old Kellings (flat weaved)	5x3, 6x4	£130-£190
75 pcs Belouchi Tribal Rugs	4'x6'2", 5'x7'2"	£80-£195
1 pc Arab Old Persian (red med)	11'x18'10"	£695
100 pcs Rugs, Metes, Yehudi (Turkish)	6x3, 8x5	£195-£485
1 pc Balkan Tahriz (red med)	15'x12'	£2,650
150 pcs Fine Bokhara (Pakistan)	6x4, 8x5	£65-£150
all colours silk pile	9x6, 10x7, 12x9	£299-£1,500
30 pcs Shikhar (China) geometric	6x4, 8x5	£180-£371
1 pc Fine Blue Turkmen (Persian)	13'x10'1"	£2,360
40 pcs Super Washed Chinese (Hubei & Peking)	8x5, 12x9	£460-£1,080
1 pc Super Afghan Maroon (Kash)	14'x11'5"	£2,275
1 pc Old Super Washed Chinese Gold Floral	15'x10'10"	£1,650
50 pcs Kashmiri (Honey, Med, Hunting etc)	6x4, 9x6, 12x9	£295-£1,250
1 pc Tibetan (Persian) Tree-of-life	12'x4'2"	£3,275
20 pcs Nam, Qum, Ispahan (Persian) & Turkish etc	4x2, 5x3	£1,650-£2,500

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More home loans may follow increase in building society savings

By Lorna Bourke

The outlook for home-buyers is improving, as money comes flooding back into building society coffers, and the prospect of shorter home loan queues is a real possibility.

Investors took advantage of higher investment rates which came into force in July, and the figures for last month, due to be released today, are likely to exceed expectations.

The flow of cash into societies had been estimated at about £600m for July, but the final figure is going to be about £740m, more than sufficient to meet present demand for mortgages.

That is not far off the record of £886m achieved in October last year, and is more than double the June total of £319m. Gateway Building Society, the fifth biggest in the country, wasted no time in responding to the improved situation with the announcement of a 25 per cent increase in lending.

That comes after Leeds Permanent's move last month to raise allocations for home loans by 10 per cent.

"The results from Gateway's superb account, launched in May, and the high income

account of July have been most encouraging and point to a very successful performance for the rest of the year," Mr Michael Gibbs, managing director of Gateway, said.

The societies need about £700m a month to meet demand for home loans and the first six months of the year were a big disappointment, with money coming in at an average of only £375m a month.

But the July rate increase has changed the societies' fortunes and figures for August, traditionally a poor month for attracting investments, seem likely to total £500m when the normal expectation would be only £300m.

However, it will take some time to reduce mortgage queues and not all societies will be able to follow Gateway's lead.

"I think they are probably a little premature," a spokesman for the Halifax said. "We certainly are not in a position to increase our lending allocations to branches yet."

Most of the big societies set targets for the year and try not to vary them up or down. Abbey National, which is approaching the end of its

lending year, will be reviewing the situation next month and expects to increase home loan allocations by at least 10 per cent.

Nationwide confirms that it has seen a big improvement since the increase in investment rates which came into force at the beginning of July.

"We try to maintain an even pattern of lending throughout the year, but we have done quite well out of the rate rises," Mr Malcolm Hughes of Nationwide said.

Demand for home loans shows little sign of waning and fears are being expressed that there could be a sharp rise in house prices.

Houses in the West Midlands, East Anglia and Wales have gone up by about 12 per cent over the past three months and only property in central London and Northern Ireland has failed to put on 5 per cent or more over the same period.

Average house prices rose by 1.7 per cent during July, according to latest figures from The Times/Halifax House Price Index, pushing house prices to nearly double their 1977 level.



Bird dog: Floyd, a border collie, yesterday rehearsing his herding of Indian runner ducks for the 'Superdogs '83' presentation at Wembley Conference Centre, London, on Sunday (Photograph: John Voos).

'Spanking' case to be retried

A headmaster at the centre of allegations over the spanking of girl pupils is to face a retrial, the Director of Public Prosecutions said yesterday.

Mr Colin West, aged 44, the head of lower school at St Aidan's Comprehensive, in Carlisle, is alleged to have spanked girl pupils.

Two weeks ago a jury at Carlisle crown court failed to reach verdicts on six out of a total of 10 charges of indecent assault and assault causing actual bodily harm.

It is thought that the retrial will be held at another Crown Court because of the publicity over the case in Carlisle.

Mr West, of Millgarth, West Woodside, Wigton, near Carlisle, denied all the charges and said that he had the permission of parents to administer corporal punishment to the girls.

Two brothers drown in river

Two brothers who were married to sisters were drowned yesterday in an 18ft-deep trench in the River Derwent at Church Wile, near Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

Mr Kevin Atkin, aged 31, of Sycamore Close, Sandycroft, near Nottingham, and Mr Ronald Atkin, aged 30, of Chestnut Grove, Sandycroft, were wading in the river when they were swept away.

Appeal to help cancer mother

A national appeal was launched yesterday for nurse Sheryl Skirton who refused cancer treatment to save her unborn baby child.

Mrs Skirton, aged 35, of Bristol, who has been given six months to live, gave premature birth to a 2lb 10oz boy as she landed in Australia last week on a visit to her parents.

Pit sleepwalker wants job back



Mr Mark Langford, aged 19, a miner from Clowne, Derbyshire, was dismissed from Bolsover colliery for sleepwalking underground. He is to ask at an industrial tribunal for reinstatement.

Dry spell puts potato prices up

By our Agriculture Correspondent

The prolonged dry weather has made it virtually certain that supplies of potatoes and other home-grown vegetables will be later and less plentiful than usual in the coming months.

Prices are likely to be correspondingly higher, but at present there are no indications of a repetition of the acute shortages after the 1976 drought.

The Potato Marketing Board said yesterday that there were fairly decent crops in some areas, particularly where they had been irrigated. But the planting season had been beset by heavy rain and waterlogging and the subsequent long dry spell had added fuel to the flames.

"If we get some rain now, we may be able to make up some leeway," an official said.

Whereas at this time last year potatoes were being sold from the farm at only about £50 to £54 a tonne, prices on the futures market for delivery this November were already up to £185 a tonne.

At one period in the winter of 1976-77 prices exceeded £300 a tonne. Allowing for inflation, a corresponding price this winter would be about £500 a tonne, but he thought it was unlikely that the market would stand that sort of level.

Retail prices would probably be at least 18p to 20p a pound during the winter months, compared to the average of 8p to 12p. But above that there was likely to be consumer resistance and a tendency to switch to alternatives like rice and pasta.

The National Farmers' Union said yesterday that vegetables yields would be well down on last year and prices would be higher. But most crops were now irrigated, and there would be no disaster for consumers.

Sugar beet crop 'standing up well'

The British Sugar Corporation said that all reports indicated that the beet crop was standing up to the drought very well. Roots were mostly deep enough to reach water, but the entire area could certainly benefit from a good soaking.

Last year's crop of 1,400,000 tonnes produced a surplus of 250,000 tonnes, of which two thirds was exported. A poor harvest this year would make life difficult for farmers and for the corporation, which is the sole buyer of all home-produced beet but, because of the overall world sugar surplus, prices would not be greatly affected.

Marital advice may have to be paid for

By Richard Evans

Acute financial difficulties may force the London Marriage Guidance Council to charge clients for advice, even on a modest basis.

Despite a record 15,000 interviews last year, local authority grants to the council fell for the first time in its history. It ended nearly £1,000 in the red.

"If this pattern is repeated over the coming years, then the future for London Marriage Guidance in its present form looks bleak," the council's annual report says.

"If our grants do not hold up, then the alternatives are depressing. We could instigate a minimum charge or we could go in for some kind of means-testing to determine each client's fee."

Such distasteful measures would discourage poorer people from using a service they trust. "But if we cannot generate better grants from local authorities and the Greater London Council, we shall have no alternatives," the report adds.

The Greater London Council having halted an £8,000 grant, the council received £41,346 from local authorities and £71,487 from clients' contributions. A decade ago grants were more than double the level of contribution.

Mrs Rosie Olin, the council's director, said yesterday:

"This is wrong and depressing because it is a subtle way of driving us into the private sector, which is not where we want to go, nor where we should go."

"The message is that local authorities in general and the GLC in particular should consider funding us at a more realistic level."

In its report the council admits to running a system of the rich subsidizing the poor. But it suggests that clients' contributions are unlikely to increase because its service is used mostly by "ordinary people", including an increasing number of the unemployed.

"From them we gladly accept token contributions of 25p or 50p a counselling session, but we can continue with this policy only so long as our budget is balanced by local authority grants."

One London borough, Hammersmith and Fulham, paid the council £1,500 last year, the same as in 1978, and is now the lowest contributor despite receiving a "particularly good service".

The report concludes: "We do not intend to let ourselves be driven into the private sector by charging realistic fees and we are determined to continue to offer our help where it is needed, rather than where it pays off."

Cases of rare illness rise to 18

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

The number of cases of a rare kidney illness that has affected mainly young children in the Black Country rose to 18 yesterday when a youth aged 17 was said to have contracted it.

The regional health authority for the area said John Maile, of Stourport-on-Severn, Hereford and Worcester, had been admitted to hospital on July 29 and had been confirmed as suffering from haemolytic uraemic syndrome. His condition was satisfactory, although he was on a kidney dialysis machine.

Eight small children were still in hospital in the region and one, a boy aged eight, was still in a coma in the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Local and government agencies have combined to try to trace the source of infection. They are the Centre for Applied Microbiology Science at Porton Down, Wiltshire; the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, Colindale, north London; and the public health laboratories in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Samples of blood, food and drink have been taken from affected children.

Some doctors think the problem may be an allergic reaction to a common disease. One doctor said that a common factor was being sought but there was no guarantee of a result.

Man lost job over Russian fiancée

An electrician who fell in love with a Russian woman while working for his company in the Soviet Union and who was dismissed after disobeying an order not to return there had his appeal against unfair dismissal rejected at an industrial tribunal in London yesterday.

Captain Roger Fisher, the tribunal chairman, told Mr Ray Ninnis, aged 35, from Platts Lane, West Hampstead: "This case borders on the line of being frivolous, vexatious and unreasonable."

When Captain Fisher was told there was no application for costs, he added: "Consider yourself very lucky. None of us who sit here have heard such a stupid and unreasonable application. You have cost the company a lot of time and expense."

Mr Richard Seymour, counsel for C.A. Controls, of Hammersmith, west London, told the tribunal that Mr Ninnis had been refused permission to fly to a contract in Nigeria by Moscow so he could visit his fiancée to make marriage arrangements.

He said: "The firm was worried that Mr Ninnis would get into trouble with the authorities because he was hoping to get the girl out of the country. They were in the process of negotiating a contract worth £6m with the Russians and it was thought his proposed project would jeopardize it."

Mr Ninnis earned £300 a week with the firm, which installs printing machines worldwide.

Mr Terrance Winter, the firm's chief executive, said: "I refused permission because he could have got into trouble and been detained. I suggested he make a tourist visit after his return from Nigeria."

Mr Seymour said that Mr Ninnis disobeyed instructions and after completing the work in Nigeria flew straight to Moscow instead of returning to London.

He was not heard from until he turned up at the London office two weeks later and said that he had asked a colleague to pass on a message saying where he had gone, Mr Seymour said.

After the hearing, Mr Ninnis said that he planned to marry his Russian girlfriend, a "very attractive interpreter" he met last September in a Moscow restaurant, in about six months' time.

Lymeswold back in the shops

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent Lymeswold cheese, which was launched last year on a flood of publicity and promptly became hard to find is back in business.

Ten and a half months after the embarrassment of finding itself overwhelmed by the unexpected demand, Dairy Crest, the manufacturing and marketing subsidiary of the Milk Marketing Board, said yesterday that it was finally in a position to supply all orders from shops and supermarkets.

A television advertising campaign which had to be cancelled last autumn has been reinstated, and the company is confident that its creamery at Cannington, Somerset, is now capable of meeting demand.

At one time orders were running at four times the creamery's maximum production, even though it was operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A company official said that the balance had been restored by a combination of increased production capacity and a fall in demand, although sales were still well above the originally predicted level.

Gregory says he was surprised at outcry over Ripper memoirs

From Our Correspondent Bradford

Mr Ronald Gregory, the former Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said last night that he would not have published his memoirs about the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper had he known that they would attract so much criticism.

Speaking on the Yorkshire Television programme *Standards Bearers*, Mr Gregory said: "If I had thought there was going to be that hoo-ha and so many people said to be upset - and I do not believe that so many people were upset - I really wouldn't have done it."

"I really could not believe it. I really could not see why there was such a big hoo-ha about it." His intention was to set the record straight and put the police side of the story, not to resurrect the story or upset relatives of Peter Sutcliffe's victims, he said. "All that was new in there was the police explanation and background to



Mr Gregory: "Wanted to set record straight".

it. The articles were not salacious."

Mr Gregory also defended the timing of the publication in *The Mail on Sunday* in June, saying that if he had left it for 10 years he would have been criticized for raking up the past. Mr

Gregory had retired three weeks earlier.

"It was two and a half years since Peter Sutcliffe's arrest and even longer since the murder hunt began. If I had not been paid for the story, but given it out free, only bits would have appeared in each newspaper. The whole story would not have been told," Mr Gregory added.

Earlier, he had said: "I know that I got paid for it. This is the way things go in the publishing business, but I had no idea it was going to cause such a furor."

Asked if he would publish further memoirs, Mr Gregory said: "I have got to consider whether there is going to be another furor if I write more."

Mr Gregory, who is reported to have been paid £40,000 for his story, was criticized by families of the Ripper victims, police officers, and members of the Government after it was published.

Briton in Saudi jail says he was tortured

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Keith Carmichael, a British businessman, has been held without trial in Saudi Arabia since 1981 despite the personal intervention of the Foreign Secretary, allegations of torture, and now a hunger strike.

His contracting company, Sacem International, collapsed with debts alleged by the Saudi authorities to total almost £1m. Saudi companies are among those said to be owed money, which is sufficient reason under Saudi law for his detention unless creditors waive their claims.

Mr Carmichael, aged 49, wrote to me on August 5, saying he was on his twenty seventh day of a hunger strike to obtain some relief. Amnesty International, which has taken up his case, said: "All along he has been trying to achieve release or medical treatment in a hospital outside Saudi Arabia."

Amnesty said it wrote to the Saudi authorities after his allegations of ill treatment during the first 90 days of his detention when he was being held incommunicado. He was alleged to have been beaten on the soles of his feet and mistreated by prison guards.

Amnesty said: "We have had no response from the Saudi authorities but we understand that they carried out an investigation into his treatment in that early period and that some prison guards have been punished."

In a letter dated May 31, Mr Carmichael wrote that his case was under review again after Mr Francis Pym, then Foreign Secretary, spoke to Saudi ministers. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has confirmed that Mr Pym had asked Saudi ministers to look at Mr Carmichael's case and the embassy had followed up the initiative.

An added misfortune is an injury to Mr Carmichael's back. He said his spine was fractured; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office says his back was damaged by a rough road over which he was being driven for a medical check-up.

In a letter written in March he wrote that only in the past four weeks had he been seen by two Western medical specialists. They started treatment for malnutrition.

"In their detailed reports of March 1, 6 and 20 they refer to the brutal beatings, my seriously fractured spine and its permanent damage, and state my health is deteriorating to the level of acute neuromuscular problems - in other words, incipient paralysis."

They have prescribed treatment, diet, exercise, sun and fresh air, a little of which I have received."

Mr Carmichael wrote to me that the Foreign Office did little to safeguard the health and interests of Britons. But

the office says that Mr Carmichael was last visited on August 9 by Mr J. S. Gibson, Third Secretary and Vice-Consul at the British Embassy in Riyadh, when he learnt that Mr Carmichael had suspended his hunger strike.

The Foreign Office said the embassy had been given access to him in January, 1982, and he had been visited by consular officers on average once a month. British officials had asked the Saudi authorities for a medical examination for him and he was to go to hospital in the near future.

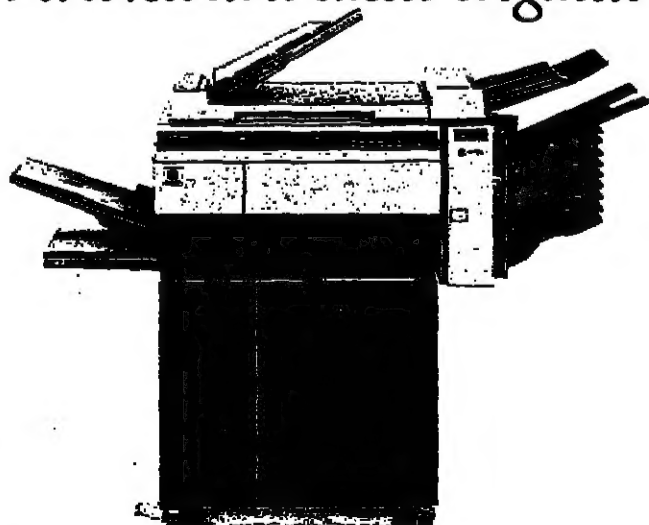
An official of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London said Mr Carmichael was responsible for "huge debts".

"He tried to escape from the country. He was personally responsible for the debts and not the company. He will be allowed out as soon as he pays the money. Someone will have to pay the money."

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T/16/8

Sales of home computers will double to £300m, market survey predicts

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Buyers of home computers will spend nearly £300m this year and most of it in high street shops, a market report published today by Mintel publications says.

The predicted sales are more than twice those of last year when purchasers spent £105m on buying home computers and another £32m on software (programs) and peripherals (disc/cassette machines).

The sales are expected to keep rising. The researchers of the report conclude: "There will be a build-up of promotion and advertising in the autumn leading to heavy sales of home computers over Christmas. This will be followed by a boom in software in January and February, 1984, as the owners of the new machines expand their horizons."

W. H. Smith still dominated the retailers of home computers, principally because it sells the cheap Sinclair products which account for two of every three home computer sales in Britain. According to Mintel, Commodore is in second place, where counting the number of machines sold while the BBC Micro, Atari, and Dragon are in joint third place.

But mail order has lost its share of the market, having fallen from 17 per cent last year to 12 per cent this year. The high street shops have taken the business. The Mintel report says: "There is a switch to shops which offer more expert advice. These include long established chains, such as Lasky's, and newer groups, such as Curry's specialist unit, Micro C."

The typical buyer is middle class and aged between 35 and 40, the age when most are likely to have young children.

"Most people are using the units as a means of learning about computers. They are glorified intellectual toys. On some occasions they are just used for video games", Mintel says.

Retailers' share of trade this year is: W. H. Smith, 18 per cent; Tandy, 12; Spectrum, 8; Curry's (incl. Micro C), 7; Lasky's, 5; Greens, 4; Dixons, 2; Boots, 2; Byte, 2; other specialists, 15; mail order, 12; other outlets, 10.

Home Computers (Mintel Publications, 7 Arundel St, London WC2R 2JF).

● High fidelity (hi-fi) stereo video recorders are to be launched within the next six months by Japanese manufacturers as a direct challenge to the video disc with its high quality sound.

The companies will manufacture the stereo videos for the VHS system developed by JVC.

No firm plans have been made to launch the units in Europe before Japan but Britain is now the most attractive market for video recorders. There are nearly four million in British homes, the highest penetration outside of Japan.

There are some deficiencies in the sound reproduction of the video recorders now on the market. The new system, with hi-fi, would be fed through the home stereo unit as television speakers are not of sufficient quality and have been designed to carry "mono" sound. The new product, which cannot be adapted from present models, is in expectation of television with stereo sound becoming widespread. The Japanese manufacturers who have taken about three years to develop the hi-fi system, are looking to the new market in the record industry where buyers are interested in having pictures with their songs.

Abortion campaign opens in Dublin

From Our Correspondent Dublin

The campaign for the forthcoming referendum to amend the constitution to include a ban on abortion opened in the Irish Republic yesterday.

The group opposing the amendment, who held a press conference in Dublin, had adopted as their slogan the statement "This amendment could kill women". The pro-amendment group will launch their campaign today.

Abortion is illegal in the republic under the Offences Against the Person Act, but a campaign by a strong conservative and Roman Catholic pressure group to give the ban constitutional protection, started more than two years ago and is now reaching its climax. The referendum will be on September 7. Debate has been heated between opposing camps.

An estimated 5,000 Irish women have abortions in England each year.

The Anti-amendment Campaign had the support yesterday of two Dail deputies (MPs) a Protestant clergyman, and the minister of one of the city's leading maternity hospitals.

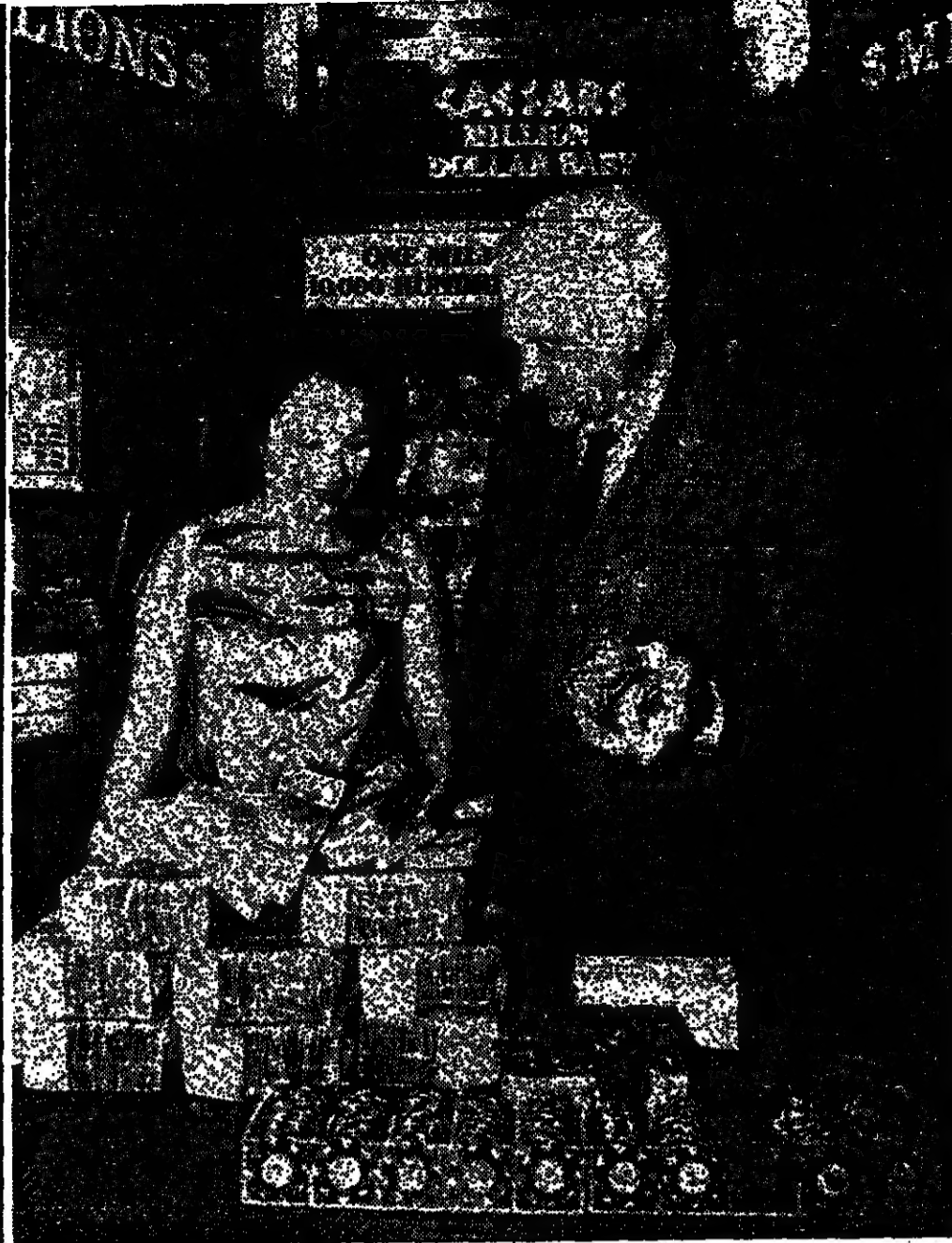
The group argues that the proposed amendment, which gives equal right to life to the mother and the foetus, could threaten medical practice, ban some contraceptives, and place restrictions on travel abroad for women of childbearing age on the ground that they might be seeking a termination. The measure was unnecessary, the group said, and it failed to address itself to the 30 women a day who sought abortions in Ireland.

The group criticized the Roman Catholic Church for stigmatizing members who oppose the amendment with the assertion that they were pro-abortion and condemned priests who used their pulpits to preach on a political matter.

The Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, originally supported the amendment, but has since changed his mind. In a recent speech he said that pregnant women whose lives were now saved by medical intervention could die if it was passed. He is due to make another speech later in the campaign.

The pro-amendment group argue that, without a constitutional ban, abortion legislation could be introduced in the Irish Republic through the courts or the EEC.

With three weeks left to polling, the anti-amendment forces believe they can bridge the 8 per cent lead which the polls indicate the pro-amendment group now has in the electorate.



Honeymoon gambler strikes gold

Mrs Annette Barrios, aged 23, a medical assistant from Santa Paula, California, collecting her \$1,065,358 (£720,000) winnings from Mr Harry Waid, president of Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, after she hit the jackpot on a fruit machine on Sunday night.

Mrs Barrios, who is on her honeymoon, struck lucky on only her second attempt with a \$3 stake. She had wanted to go to bed but friends had insisted that she try her luck. When asked what she would do with the win she said: "I'm going to trust the Lord to show us the way."

Her win was the biggest ever on a slot machine in the gambling city's history, but was not a national record. A machine in Atlantic City, New Jersey, paid out £1.25m last November.

Anger at Pretoria

Lesotho refuses to expel refugees

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

An appeal for international help was made yesterday by Lesotho to stop South Africa applying an economic squeeze to force it to expel 3,000 political refugees.

South Africa claims that African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas are using refugee status to plan and launch sabotage attacks across the Lesotho border.

A statement issued by the Lesotho Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Maseru yesterday said that South Africa, in its determination to force Lesotho to expel the refugees, had instituted extremely tight border controls which made it "absolutely impossible" for Basuto to cross into South Africa even for humanitarian reasons.

No country had yet indicated its willingness to receive the refugees, the statement said, but it added that the Lesotho Government as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Refugees, would not force them to return to South Africa. "Refugees are human beings and not mere bags of coal which can be easily traded," the statement declared.

Lesotho is entirely surrounded by South African territory and is totally dependent economically on its powerful neighbour but relations between the two governments have continued to worsen since South African troops raided Maseru last December in what was claimed to be an attack against ANC hideouts.

Strict border controls were imposed in May after the ANC car bomb attack in Pretoria which killed 19 people and injured more than 200 and another bomb blast, which caused little damage, in Bloemfontein a few days later.

Pretoria has also been perturbed by the decision of Chief Leabua Jonathan, the Lesotho Prime Minister, to establish diplomatic relations with China and North Korea.

Amid the accusations and denials flying between Pretoria and Maseru, the Lesotho Government has denied that it knowingly harbours ANC guerrillas but has accused South Africa of allowing the Lesotho Liberation Army, military wing of the outlawed opposition Basuto Congress Party, which is dedicated to overthrowing Chief Jonathan's Government, to operate freely from its territory.

It accused South African agents of being responsible for a bomb explosion in Maseru two weeks ago which went off five minutes before Chief Jonathan was due to drive past.

Queensland leader outwits his opponents

From Tony Dahohdin Melbourne

Sir James Ramsay, the Queensland Governor, yesterday refused to accept the resignation of the seven Liberal members in the state coalition Government, on the recommendation of Mr Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, the Premier. His refusal has thrown an already difficult situation into chaos.

It was a master stroke on the part of the premier, aged 72, and one of "chameleons" of Australian politics. The move enabled the Liberal ministers to say that they had followed the Liberal Party order to resign following the rift between Mr Terry White the new Liberal leader, and the Premier. But they remained in power.

Political observers believe that Mr Bjelke-Petersen has completely outmanoeuvred Mr White, and unless the Liberal Party leader can persuade the Premier to recall Parliament, which has met for only 14 days so far this year, he will have little chance of ailing the issue.

Sir James said that Mr White, by voting with the opposition, had broken the Westminster tradition and must apologize to Mr Bjelke-Petersen. Mr White voted with the Labour opposition the week before last on a motion to open a debate on the need for a public accounts committee. Liberal Party policy which is opposed by Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

Political observers believe that although yesterday's move will allow Mr Bjelke-Petersen to govern until the end of his term, in the long-run the Labour opposition can only gain from the machinations of the premier who has led his state for 15 years.

One thing is almost certain: the Liberal Party will gain no benefit whatsoever and has seriously jeopardized its credibility in the eyes of the electorate.

Prisoners of conscience



Uruguay: Pedro Aguerre

By Caroline Moorehead

Colonel Pedro Aguerre, who supported the banned Frente Amplio (Broad Front) coalition, is serving a 21-year sentence in Montevideo's Penal de Punta Carretera for "endangering" the constitution.

In 1971 the armed forces were called in to reinforce the police in their campaign against the MLN, or Tupamaros urban guerrilla movement.

After the introduction of the Law of National Security in 1973, they took on an additional role in that civilians accused of political or trade union offences were tried by military courts.

After the MLN had been crushed the armed forces continued to play a central role in politics. In June 1973 they dissolved Parliament and banned the national trade union movement, and by the end of the year left-wing political groups and parties had been banned.

A number of senior officers supporting the Frente Amplio were detained between 1973 and 1976, of whom Colonel Aguerre was one. He was arrested on January 26, 1976 after explosions at the seaside resort of Punta del Este.

It had been known within some sections of the Army that plans for a coup were being prepared in case the Frente Amplio won the 1971 elections.

Certain officers had therefore discussed ways of preventing a coup and pledged themselves to the constitution. Their plans were sometimes referred to as the *plan contragolpe* - the counter-coup plan.

● Vladimir Poreh, who featured in this column on August 2, is not, as stated, awaiting trial in Russia. He was tried and sentenced in April, 1980, to five years in a labour camp and three years, exile for anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

Colonel Aguerre: Serving a 21-year sentence.

Students 'taking too long over PhDs'

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Big differences in the length of time it takes students to complete their PhD thesis is disclosed in a survey carried out by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC).

It found that 30 per cent of those doing PhDs funded by the council had completed them at Queen Mary College, London, after four years, whereas 70 per cent had done so at Cambridge.

The survey asked the 59 universities and colleges in Britain how many of their students who began their doctoral theses in 1978 had finished them by last October. That is one year longer than the normal three-year grant period for a PhD student.

Most showed that they had completion rates of 40 to 60 per cent, but five recorded percentages of over 60. They were Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham, and Oxford, with Cambridge leading the field at 70 per cent.

The survey also looked at the completion rate by subject, that is according to how each SERC grant-awarding board performed. Nuclear physics had the best record with a 75 per cent completion rate. Then came astronomy, space and radio and science awards, between 45 and 60 per cent. Engineering managed only 37 per cent.

PhD submission rates etc by institution				
	No. of students registered by 1.10.82	No. who submitted by 1.10.82	No. of students registered by 1.10.82	No. who submitted by 1.10.82
Aberystwyth	62	29	21	
Bath	60	19	9	
Birmingham	67	32	67	
Bristol	65	36	27	
Cardiff	15	7	7	
Cambridge	140	98	32	
City	14	8	2	
Christie Inst. of Tech	10	3	4	
Durham	29	11	16	
East Anglia	29	11	16	
Exeter	4	2	4	
Hull	18	4	12	
Leeds	19	10	8	
Leicester	8	8	8	
Liverpool	26	5	14	
Loughborough	29	12	6	
London	58	19	12	
Nottingham	68	35	29	
Oxford	132	99	11	
Reading	39	11	19	
Salisbury	39	11	19	
Southampton	62	23	10	
Strathclyde	46	21	20	
Swansea	36	18	13	
Ulster	36	18	13	
University of Wales: Aberystwyth	18	12	5	
Bangor	24	6	8	
Cardiff	37	16	15	
Swansea	28	6	22	
Ulster	10	4	7	
York	11	7	1	
Dundee	13	9	3	
Edinburgh	44	20	21	
Glasgow	55	22	22	
Heriot-Watt	24	10	4	
Sheffield	21	16	11	
Strathclyde	7	6	1	
Queen's Belfast	40	22	14	
Total universities	2227	1194	688	
Total polytechnics*	100	35	61	
Other institutions*	8	1	1	
Total	2435	1180	953	

Nigerian refuses to relinquish governorship after poll defeat

Lagos (Reuters) - The incumbent governor of Anambra state in southern Nigeria yesterday rejected his defeat in Saturday's state governorship elections, claiming that the voting had been rigged.

Mr Jim Nwobodo of the Nigerian People's Party (NPP) told supporters in a radio and television broadcast after his narrow defeat that they should remain calm while he considered his next move.

The Anambra result increased fears of further violence stemming from the elections to choose governors for Nigeria's 19 states. At least seven people died in Oyo state at the weekend and the governor there gave a warning of more trouble if "false results" were announced.

In Anambra, Mr Christian Onoh of President Shagari's National Party of Nigeria (NPN) won a surprise victory, with 48.22 per cent of the vote compared to Mr Nwobodo's 47.46 per cent.

The defeated Anambra governor said in his broadcast that election officials had inflated voting figures in some areas to ensure an NPN victory.

Mr Bola Ige, Governor of Oyo state said in a special state television broadcast on Sunday night that "some elements" within the Federal Electoral Commission (Fecode) planned to award the election in Oyo to the NPN.

Mr Ige, a member of the Opposition Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), said: "I owe it

as a duty to inform you and alert you all at this impetuous attempt to set Oyo state, which we have kept at peace for the last four years, ablaze."

Oyo was placed under a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Sunday night after Saturday's violence. One of those killed was a policeman doused in petrol and set alight.

The *Daily Sketch* newspaper, printed in the Oyo capital of Ibadan and run by the UPN, said yesterday that a similar curfew had been imposed in neighbouring Ondo state, where violence has also been reported.

Police have confirmed the seven deaths in Oyo, but at least 10 other deaths have been reported by the press and politicians in the west, which has a long history of electoral violence.

Saturday's violence was in sharp contrast to a peaceful presidential poll on August 6 in which President Shagari was easily returned to office.

Mr Ige thanked his supporters on Sunday night for massing on the streets during voting on Saturday to prevent ballot boxes from being stolen and for what he termed the recovery of stolen papers.

He alleged that, with more than half the votes counted, he was leading the contest with more than 80 per cent of the vote. But he said result sheets had been discovered that would give victory to the NPN, which made heavy inroads in Oyo during the presidential poll. The UPN says that the election was rigged.

Pretoria denies napalm raid on Angola town

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

President Eduardo dos Santos said yesterday that a town with napalm were destroyed in a weekend raid by eight South African jets which dropped napalm.

General Viljoen said the accusations were "obviously coupled with apparent successful offensives by Unita" and designed to make South Africa reveal details of its operations in Angola.

The South African air force would never attack civilian targets with napalm, General Viljoen added.

Angolan claims that South African jets have bombed a town with napalm were designed to disguise the latest successes of Unita rebels, it was claimed yesterday.

General Constand Viljoen, chief of the South African Defence Force, said in Pretoria the South African Impala jets carrying a bomb load did not have the range to reach the eastern Angolan town of Camamba in Mexico province.

The official Angolan news agency, Angop, has quoted

Geography and politics prevent coherent strategy

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

In the second and final of two articles on NATO's responsibilities in the Mediterranean, RODNEY COWTON, Defence Correspondent, examines the alliance's land capabilities.

In terms of potential land warfare, NATO's southern flank stands in marked contrast to the central front around Germany which is, and will remain, NATO's main preoccupation.

The central front is geographically accommodated in the central Mediterranean. The southern flank, in contrast, spans a huge distance on its east-west axis, running from west of Britain to nearly 400 miles east of Moscow.

The defensive plans for the central front have been carefully coordinated and are regularly tested in multinational exercises. Because of not only geographical, but also political difficulties, the southern flank is a much less coherent whole: if the American Sixth Fleet were removed, NATO's presence in the Mediterranean would become a concept with very little substance.

Spain is only hesitantly a part of NATO, and not part of the integrated command structure. France, though militarily powerful, also remains outside the integrated command and Greece has insisted that America shall begin to close its Greek bases by 1989.

Although in recent years Italy has increased its defence spend-

NATO's SOUTHERN FLANK Part 2

ing in line with NATO targets, it is possible that this phase has now ended, and one source recently described Italy's defence establishment as "woefully under-funded". Its military posture in time of serious crisis is based on mobilization of reserves "for which they do not have equipment or infrastructure".

In Greece and Turkey there are armies which are renowned for their fighting qualities, and which are large in relation to size of population. But in both there are great problems in terms of obsolete equipment and inadequate stocks.

Substantial efforts are now being made to improve the position. U.S. military and economic aid to Turkey in 1982-1983 totals \$650m (£433m) and the Administration is seeking congressional approval for over \$900m for 1983-1984.

The United States maintains only very small ground forces in the southern flank: about 6,000 soldiers as against 240,000 on the central front.

Among the many problems are the extremely difficult relations between Greece and Turkey which make it almost impossible to plan coordinated land defensive operations.

This could be critical in the event of a serious East-West confrontation in the Mediterranean. One of the obvious key objectives of the Warsaw Pact would be to try to seize the Dardanelles by means of an attack through north-east Greece and Turkish Thrace, and thus open the Mediterranean to the Soviet Black Sea fleet. In present circumstances it is doubtful if such an attack could be resisted for long.

The southern flank is now beginning to get some of the attention for which its commanders have been clamouring. But it will remain far behind the central front in terms of NATO's priorities. A sudden blow against an unguarded central front could destroy NATO in a couple of weeks. For NATO as a whole an attack against the southern flank would involve a slower process of strangulation which would permit more time to break the stranglehold.



Gelli said to have flown from France

From Roger Beardwood
Paris

Signor Lucio Gelli, the central figure in Italy's biggest postwar political scandal, was reported yesterday to have flown from Annecy Airport, in France, after disappearing from a Swiss prison last week. Annecy is less than one hour's drive from Geneva.

Signor Gelli, grandmaster of the outlawed P2 masonic lodge, was said to have left the airport in a private jet. The French immigration service refused to comment last night. Another report said Signor Gelli had flown to Monaco in a helicopter.

Signor Gelli was arrested in Switzerland a year ago. The Italians have requested his extradition.

The border between Switzerland and France is lightly guarded and immigration officials do not always ask for passports. It is even easier to cross undetected from one country to the other on Lake Geneva.

There is still debate over whether Signor Gelli escaped from Champ Dollon prison or was abducted by enemies. His Swiss lawyer said there was evidence of a violent struggle in his cell.



Solidarity remembered: Mr Lech Walesa attending Mass in Gdansk to mark the third anniversary of the strike that led to the formation of Solidarity, the banned Polish free trade union, which he once led.

He used the anniversary to urge the Government to open a dialogue with Solidarity representatives within 10 days (Our Warsaw Correspondent writes).

After the morning shift left the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk some 2,000 workers laid wreaths at the crosses which commemorate the deaths of Poles in the 1970 protests. Some chanted: "Solidarity, Solidarity."

The police ordered the crowd to disperse. Mr Walesa urged them to comply, saying: "See you here again on the twenty-second."

He is evidently backing the appeal circulated by a clandestine group calling for a dialogue between the Government and Mr Walesa by August 22.

Walesa sets deadline for dialogue with Warsaw

Honecker visit lifts political quarantine

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

Accompanied by the usual stage spectacle of "fraternal" warmth, neighbourly hugs and loud declarations of allied solidarity, Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, arrives in Warsaw this week in the latest stage in the lifting of Poland's lengthy political quarantine.

He comes to Poland only weeks after General Jaruzelski abandoned martial law. During the 19 months of military rule no Warsaw Pact leader visited Warsaw although General Jaruzelski and other Polish Politburo members travelled throughout the Communist alliance, making reassuring noises and explaining the reasons for declaring martial law.

The Polish Government was convinced that the papal visit had stamped Poland with the seal of "normality". The country had returned to the international fold and could be treated by the West as an equal partner. But the key to mending fences with the West is to consolidate Poland's position in the Warsaw Pact. Herr Honecker's visit, which will undoubtedly be followed by a string of other meetings with Eastern block leaders, is the first big step towards this aim.

Poland's neighbours disliked Solidarity. They feared that the

Zimbabwe helps its stricken farmers

From Stephen Taylor
Harare

Faced with depleted food stocks in the wake of severe regional drought, the Zimbabwe Government has responded to calls by the farming community for reassurance and incentives with a range of price increases.

The advance minimums, which will apply to maize and other crops harvested next year, were described by Senator Denis Norman, the Minister of Agriculture, as "a clear indication of support for the agricultural industry," and were welcomed as such by the Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU).

Most important was the 16.6 per cent price increase, to \$21m140 (£91) per tonne, for maize. After two drought years the country's staple diet has become a high-risk crop for farmers, more vulnerable than such alternatives as tobacco or cotton which have made satisfying returns.

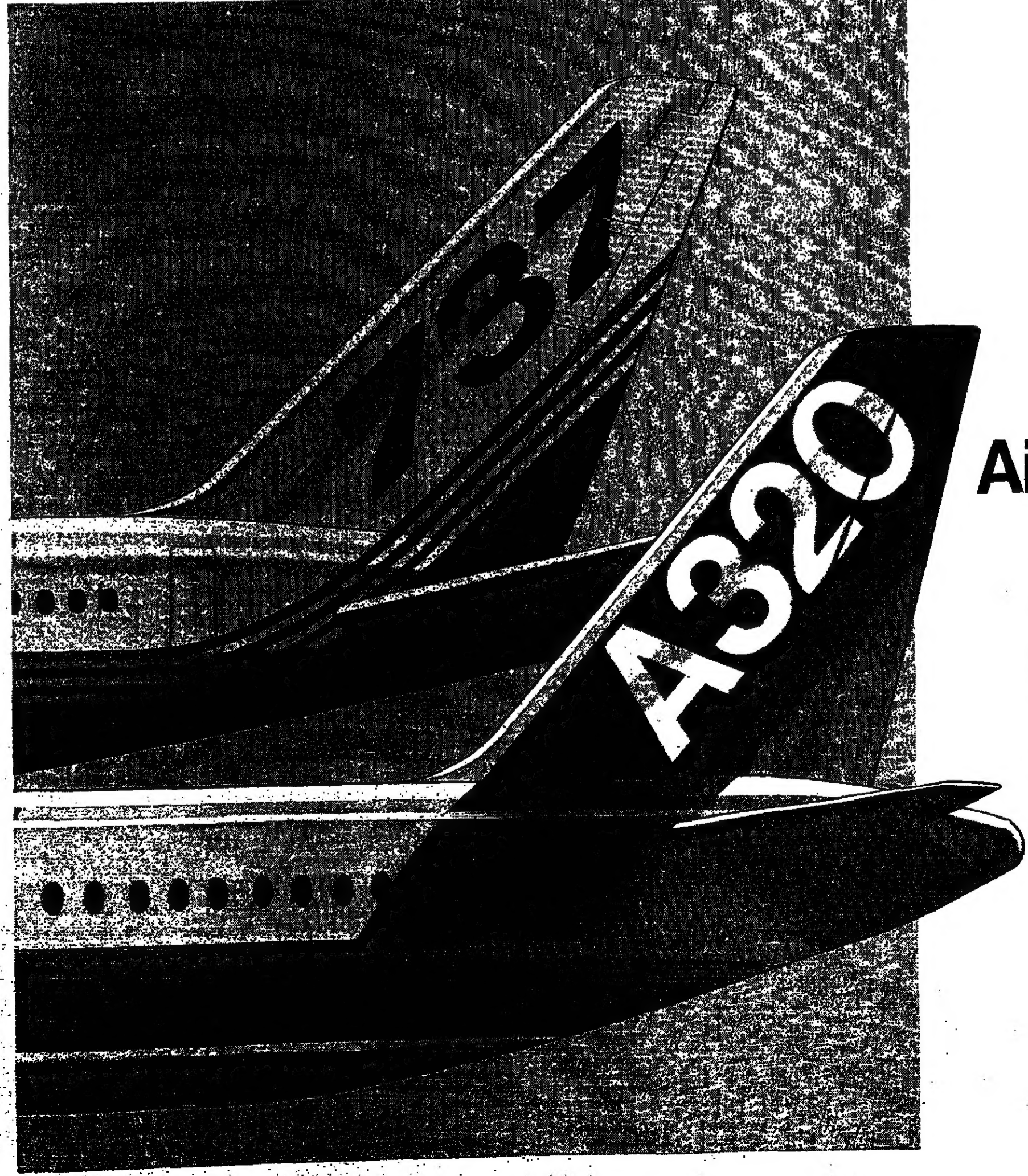
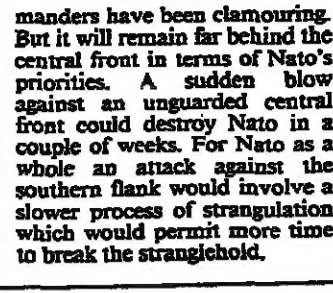
The record harvest of 1981 has been sold or consumed and by next April maize stocks will have run out. That, as was pointed out by the CFU in making its point, left precious little time in getting the new crop in and required an incentive to farmers to plant early.

Although falling short of the \$21m150 per tonne hoped for by the farmers, the new advance minimum should go some way to providing that encouragement. Mr John Laurie, the new president of the CFU, said the concept of advance prices was appreciated as it was in addition to the normal annual review scheduled early next year.

In an interview earlier this week Mr Laurie said "Farmers' morale has been badly undermined by the drought but given a fair price and fair weather I have no doubt that commercial agriculture will be able to meet the nation's expectations".

The weather factor remains critical. The next rains are due to start after the middle of October. A good growing season would have enormous economic and national benefits but a third drought year would be disastrous.

While the past season has shown that tobacco and cotton, both of which are important foreign currency earners, can prosper during a drought, the prime objective of agriculture here is to keep Zimbabwe self-reliant insofar as food is concerned.



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Central America policy differences remain wide after La Paz talks

From John Carlin, La Paz, Mexico

President Reagan and President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico ended a meeting in La Paz, northern Mexico, on Sunday evening with the disagreements remaining as marked as ever between the two countries on the question of Central America.

It was President de la Madrid who articulated the traditional foreign policy differences between the two neighbours. "No nation," he said, "can impose its own image on others, nor believe that its own values and solutions are superior to others and therefore applicable to another nation."

It was a clear reference to American military intervention in Central America, intervention aimed at shaping the region's political picture.

Reiterating his country's commitment to the "principles of self-determination of peoples and of non-intervention," the Mexican President said that the world "would survive in peace if plurality and unity in diversity were respected."

President de la Madrid made his statements in an address two hours before President Reagan's departure. The American President, less declaratory, less complex in his rhetoric, responded with an address of his own before several hundred journalists in the La Paz town hall.

In his address Mr Reagan also signalled "non-intervention" as crucial to solving the Central American crisis, but he added that non-intervention should include "ending support for subversive elements seeking to destabilize other countries."

The results of Sunday's presidential meeting as disappointing. The tone of the two presidential addresses, as that of several other public utterances they made, suggested harmony and understanding at the La Paz summit. However, it was clear at the end that the United States and Mexico would have to persist with their traditional "We'll agree to disagree" policy, given that their differences on how to approach the Central American problem remain as wide as ever.

● **MEXICO CITY:** About 200 left-wing demonstrators marched in front of the US Embassy protesting against President Reagan's visit to Mexico and denouncing American policy in Central America (AP reports).

Police stood by as the protesters delivered speeches and marched along Reforma Boulevard in front of the embassy.

● **SAN SALVADOR:** Government officials calculated that about 500 insurgents had laid down their arms under an amnesty for left-wing guerrillas which expired at midnight (Reuters reports).

A senior army officer said that guerrillas who continued to fight in the country's three-and-a-half-year civil war would be "slaughtered like cows".

The interim constituent assembly passed the amnesty law in May.

● **Archbishop speaks out:** Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas accused right-wing death squads of killing 44 civilians in the past two weeks and criticized "external intervention" in Central America.

Mr Reagan also called in his address on Sunday for "the verifiable withdrawal of all foreign military and security advisers and a freeze on the acquisition of offensive weapons" in Central America.

The proposal will be welcomed, if perhaps a little ruefully by President de la Madrid who said on Thursday that a recent decision by Washington to dispatch a fleet of warships to Central America waters placed an obstacle in the way to peace in Central America.

Towards the end of his address President Reagan said: "We will consider it a beautiful day when all foreign elements, including our own, may be safely withdrawn."

But despite the agreement on objectives for Central America, one initially hopeful Mexican government official described

the results of Sunday's presidential meeting as disappointing. The tone of the two presidential addresses, as that of several other public utterances they made, suggested harmony and understanding at the La Paz summit. However, it was clear at the end that the United States and Mexico would have to persist with their traditional "We'll agree to disagree" policy, given that their differences on how to approach the Central American problem remain as wide as ever.

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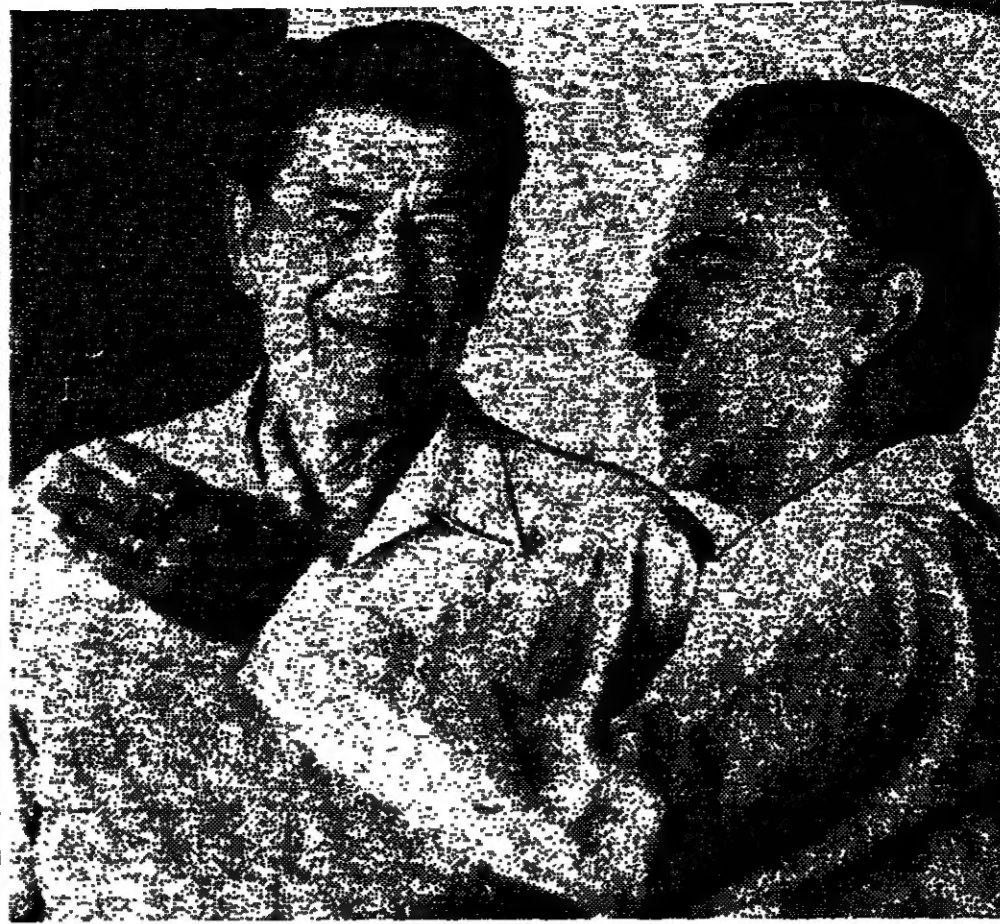
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Coastal conference: President Reagan and President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico during the American leader's seven-hour visit to La Paz in Mexico.

Chad rebels push south

French help Habré to dig in

Ndjamena (Reuters) - French troops here were yesterday helping President Hissène Habré's beleaguered government to establish a strong defence line against Libyan-backed rebels pushing south towards the Chad capital, sources said.

After capturing the strategic northern town of Faya-Largeau on Wednesday and pushing south, former president Goukouni Oueddei's rebels and their Libyan allies effectively control the northern half of Chad.

French troops were moved over the weekend to the small government outpost of Salal, 220 miles north of Ndjamena and to Abéché, a traditional Habré stronghold some 420 miles north-east of the former French colony's capital.

The sources said it was clear the French, under orders not to engage in fighting but only train government troops, were helping Mr Habré to set up a line from Salal to Abéché to stop the rebels' southward drive.

France seemed determined not to let Mr Goukouni regain control in Ndjamena, though how far they were willing to go to defend Mr Habré's regime remained unclear, observers said.

They said Mr Habré was certain to have appealed again

for direct French intervention when he met M Guy Penne, French presidential adviser on African affairs, in Ndjamena on Sunday.

In Paris, French radio reported that a fresh contingent of paratroops had left for Chad, bringing the total number in the country to 700. The Defence Ministry declined to comment.

Since the latest flare-up in Chad's protracted civil war began seven weeks ago, France has stepped up its aid considerably but Chad officials say only French participation in ground fighting and French air cover can help to beat back what they say is Libyan aggression.

France is under strong pressure from traditional African allies such as Ivory Coast, Senegal, Gabon and Zaïre to make a determined show of

force to check what they see as a Libyan attempt to spread its influence.

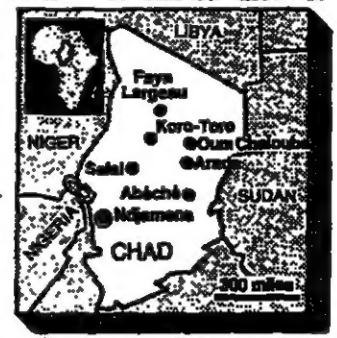
● **BEIRUT:** Mr Goukouni has said the US, France and Zaïre must withdraw troops and advisers from Chad before any peace talks can start, the Libyan news agency Jana reported yesterday.

Jana said Mr Goukouni's position was stated in a letter to Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian leader and chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

Jana said Mr Goukouni affirmed his "readiness to cooperate with the OAU to realize a just, peaceful and permanent solution to the Chadian internal problem".

● **MOSCOW:** The Soviet Union has accused France and the US of "threatening peace in Africa and all over the world" by directly intervening in Chad (Richard Owen writes).

Until recently France was virtually exempted from Soviet condemnations of Western policies, but since the advent to power of President Mitterrand, relations have deteriorated sharply. Tass said yesterday that France had embarked on the occupation of Chad, and that Paris could no longer claim that its troops in the region were instructors.



Goukouni's see-saw with Libya

Ndjamena (Reuters) - Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the rebel leader seeking to oust President Hissène Habré of Chad, is labelled a "Libyan puppet" by his opponents.

But his relations with Libya over the years have been see-sawed, along with his battle against Mr Habré, his for guerrilla comrades, and Mr Goukouni at one time attacked "Libyan imperialism".

His friends describe him as a nationalist using Libya to regain power in his vast, semi-desert central African nation wracked by civil war for the past 17 years.

Like Mr Habré he is a southerner. But whereas Mr Habré is the son of a poor shepherd, Mr Goukouni aged 40, is an aristocrat, the fourth son of the *Derdé*, spiritual leader of the northern Tibesti district.

In 1968, like many Muslim northerners he joined the *Frolinat* guerrilla movement seeking to end domination of post-colonial Chad by the affluent, Christian and socialist southerners.

The two men fought in the same guerrilla group and Mr Goukouni's first dispute with Mr Habré came in 1976 when he expelled him from his army for refusing to free a French ethnologist kept as a hostage.

In the mid-seventies, Mr Goukouni had his first clash with Libya when he refused to recognize the 1973 annexation of the mineral-rich Aouzou strip by Colonel Gaddafi.

At the end of 1980, Mr Goukouni called in the Libyan Army to crush a rebellion by Mr Habré and then obtained the withdrawal of Libyan troops.

Mr Habré later came out of refuge in neighbouring Sudan to lead a campaign climaxing last year in the routing of Mr Goukouni's forces.

Mr Goukouni, Aristocrat from the north.

Stranded Lebanese airlifted home

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Apparently resigned to the continued closure of Beirut airport, the Lebanese Government announced yesterday that it would commence its own helicopter service to Cyprus to airlift thousands of businessmen and holidaymakers stranded on the island and unable to return home.

The first two military helicopters were on their way to Larnaca yesterday afternoon to collect a group of 40 Lebanese trying to reach Beirut.

It was, however, President Mubarak of Egypt who emphasized yesterday the full implications of Lebanon's predicament when he called for an Arab summit conference to prevent renewed civil war in the country and prevent its partition as well as seek some peace settlement with Israel. "The spectre of partition and communal strife is emerging again," Mr Mubarak said.

The Lebanese Government is carrying on discreet negotiations with the Druze militias who threaten to shell the airport unless the Lebanese Air Force jet fighters and helicopters are removed.

There are rumours in Beirut that President Gemayel may be prepared to seek the early retirement of the head of the country's Deuxième Bureau if this would be sufficient to appease the Druze and ensure the peaceful entry into the Chouf Mountains of the Lebanese Army.

The Government, on the other hand, is anxious to prove that the closure of the airport is solely the responsibility of the Druze. When Beirut State Radio interviewed stranded Lebanese passengers in Cyprus yesterday, all said that Mr Walid Jumblatt's militia were to blame for their plight.

With the airport closed for a sixth day, Beirut is acquiring something of a siege atmosphere. After Sunday night's renewed shelling of East Beirut, the streets of the capital were at times almost deserted yesterday. Although it was a public holiday, the beaches and corniche were empty.

Rumours are now such that when a man fired three shots in the air in the centre of the city yesterday to prevent a police patrol removing an illegal fish-seller's cart, local radio stations were at once reporting that a gun battle had broken out between the Lebanese Army and leftist militias. Predicting civil war here is becoming something of a contagion.

● **Bill of Rights call in South Africa:** From Our Correspondent Johannesburg. An eloquent plea for the inclusion of a Bill of Rights in South Africa's draft constitution was made by the Opposition yesterday when the final debate began.

Mr Harry Schwarz of the Progressive Federal Party, told Parliament in Cape Town: "One of the most important reasons why South Africa needs a Bill of Rights is the existence of minorities, and one of the reasons why this Parliament, while it has sovereign power, should enact it is that in South Africa as a whole we, as whites, are a minority and within the white group itself there are minorities."

Under the proposed constitution South Africa will have three separate parliaments for whites, mixed race Coloureds and Asians, but ultimate power will remain in white hands. The committee stage and third reading debate of the Bill, which began yesterday, is expected to be one of the fiercest in South African political history.

Bombings spoil special day for India

Delhi (AFP and AP) - Bomb attacks in Kashmir and Assam, which wounded at least nine people, marred India's thirty-sixth Independence Day celebrations, the Press Trust of India reported.

In Srinagar summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, six were injured in a blast which occurred as Mr Farooq Abdullah, the Chief Minister, was taking the salute at a parade. In Assam three people were injured, two seriously, when a bomb exploded at Nowgong.

In Assam, the All Assam Students Union and All Assam Ganga Sangram Parishad, leading the four-year-old movement against illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal, held parallel Independence Day functions in different parts of Assam with a call to the people to boycott official functions.

In southern Tamil Nadu, all functions connected with Independence Day were on a subdued note, reflecting the deep feeling of the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka which left 371 people dead, and at least 100,000 homeless, mostly Tamils.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, marked Independence Day with a pledge to combat unemployment and a warning against foreign economic and political pressure. While promising a national commitment to peace, Mrs Gandhi criticized the political and economic pressures on developing nations as "more dangerous than armed intervention".

In the televised address covering domestic and international issues, Mrs Gandhi also defended her Government's handling of agitation in Assam and Punjab, accusing agitators of complicating the situation.

Referring to Assam, where communal violence last February claimed at least 3,600 lives, the Prime Minister said the Government had taken "positive steps" to deal with the ethnic problem.

● **COLOMBO:** Three deaths by shooting were reported from Jaffna, the administrative capital of the Tamil area of Sri Lanka over the weekend (Donovan Moldrich writes).

A leader of a Tamil terrorist group was shot by two men on a motorcycle believed to have been members of a rival terrorist organization.

In another incident, a businessman and his son were shot as they were leaving a petrol station they owned.

Turkey's Premier to stand in elections

Ankara - Mr Bulend Ulusu, the Turkish Prime Minister, has announced that he will stand in the elections scheduled for November 6 as an independent and the ticket of the right-wing Nationalist Democracy Party (Rasit Gurdil writes).

He said his decision would not affect the neutrality of his government, which would stay on until after the elections. He would not be joining the party, but was merely exercising a right granted in the elections law to members of the Government.

The Nationalist Democracy Party is led by Mr Turgut Sunalp, a retired general, and is believed to be favoured by the military.

Israel opens Spain air link

Madrid - The arrival of the first regularly scheduled El Al flight between Israel and Spain brought the two countries one step closer to establishing diplomatic relations (Harry Debelius writes).

The Spanish national airline, Iberia, began twice weekly flights to and from Israel on July 27. From now on, El Al and Iberia will each make two round trips a week. Regular airline service between the two nations did not exist in the past, mainly because of Spain's traditional pro-Arab policy.

Coconut men leave quietly

The Foreign Office said that a group of Mauritian coconut-pickers who landed illegally on a British island dependency in the Indian Ocean last month had left without provoking a confrontation (Reuters reports).

The incident on an atoll in the Chagos islands had been watched closely by Britain, because Mauritius claims the Chagos, and by the United States, which has a military base in the group on the island of Diego Garcia, leased from Britain.

Yemen unity

Sana North Yemen (AFP) - The Presidents of North and South Yemen attended the first of a series of meetings of the Supreme Yemeni Council to review progress towards unification of the two countries.

Seventh term

President Alfredo Stroessner, aged 71, the ruler of Paraguay for 29 years, who was sworn in yesterday for a seventh five-year term.

Soviet defector

Oslo (Reuters) - A Soviet geologist has defected from a group of Soviet scientists working at a coal mine in Norway's Spitzbergen island. He approached Mr Carl Wendt, Norway's Governor on Spitzbergen, and was flown to Oslo at the weekend.

Typhoon deaths

Tokyo (Reuters) - At least 44 people drowned over the weekend in Japan as two typhoons approached the southern coast.

Stowaways die

Bremenhaven (AP) - Dockers rescued two young Colombian stowaways from the refrigerated hold of a Belgian busman boat, but two others died of exposure during the two-week voyage from South America to West Germany.

Quiet pull-out

Hongkong - China has officially announced that all units of the People's Liberation Army have been withdrawn from the border between Hongkong and the "special economic zone" of Shumchuan, a full year after the troops quietly pulled out and transferred security to local police and militia.

Brain drain

Kampala (AP) - Almost half of Uganda's newly-qualified doctors have left to work abroad. Of the 53 graduates from Makerere University medical school, 24 have departed for other African countries, Europe, the United States, and Papua New Guinea.

Finger roll

Friedrichshafen (AFP) - A West German holidaymaker found a finger in the bread he had bought here for breakfast. The bakery confirmed that one of its employees had lost a finger a few days earlier, and had been unable to find it despite a thorough search of the dough.

Shultz says he will not resign

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, whose authority over the conduct of foreign policy has been increasingly overshadowed by that of Mr William Clark, President Reagan's national security advisor, denied yesterday that he intends to resign and return to his home in California. However he carefully avoided commenting on a report in the latest issue of Newsweek magazine that he has told Mr Reagan he was frustrated and should leave the post which he has held for the past year.

Mr Shultz, who accompanied the President to La Paz, Mexico, for talks with President Miguel de la Madrid, told reporters: "I fully intend to stay on the job in Washington, attractive though California always is for anybody who has the experience of living there. I support the President's policies in Central America and have done so publicly as well as privately in our own discussions."

It has been known for several months that the President's tough policy on Central America has been largely worked out by Mr Clark in conjunction with Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American representative at the United Nations. Mr Shultz was not informed about plans to employ American naval forces off the coast of Nicaragua until he read about them in the newspapers.

Mr Shultz was also dismayed by the appointment of Mr Robert MacFarlane, deputy national security advisor, to succeed Mr Philip Habib as the President's special envoy to the Middle East.

Peru arrests hailed as breakthrough

By Colin Harding

The Peruvian police have claimed their first big intelligence breakthrough in their three-year war against the Maoist guerrilla organization, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path).

Twenty-seven people were arrested after Civil Guard agents were reported to have infiltrated Sendero's command structure in the central Andean departments of Pasco, Junin and Huancayo. They were shown to the press last week, but no questions were allowed.

If true, the arrests could deal a severe blow to the guerrillas' efforts to extend their campaign of sabotage and assassinations to new areas of the Peruvian highlands. Sendero's main centre of operations is the depart-

ment of Ayacucho, in south-central Peru, but there have been a growing number of raids and killings in rural areas of Pasco and Junin in recent weeks.

Officials say that more than 700 people are being held as guerrilla suspects, many of them detained since the declaration in May of a state of emergency, which has since been extended for a further two months.

The armed forces have been leading operations against the guerrillas in Ayacucho since last December, but have preferred to let the police bear the brunt in the rest of the country, confining themselves to providing technical and logistical support.

69 hurt in 'flag war'

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish flag was hoisted without incident at the beginning of San Sebastian's annual fiesta yesterday, only hours after Basque separatists had provoked ugly disturbances in which 69 people were injured.

The disturbances, on Sunday night, came when police intervened after two young Basques wearing masks had publicly burnt the red and gold flag, symbol of Spanish unity, in the capital of Guipuzcoa province, a stronghold of Basque radicalism.

The separatists wanted the red, green and white Basque flag to fly alone in public places throughout the resort.

In the worst incident yet in the so-called "flag war" in the Basque region, several hundred separatists booed and threw stones at Señor Carlos Garai-cochea, Chief Minister of the Basque autonomous government, and his official party walked through the streets to a

church. They barricaded his path with chairs and tables from outdoor cafe's.

The demonstrators fought with Basque police protecting the Chief Minister. The mayor of San Sebastian was injured when a stone hit him on the jaw.

The separatists jeered at the regional police as "pigs" and shouted slogans describing the ruling Basque Nationalist Party as traitors.

Spanish flags have been burnt in several small Basque towns where the extreme left-wing Herri Batasuna Party, the political arm of the Basque extremist group ETA, is influential.

Both King Juan Carlos and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, have said that the flag, Spain's national symbol, must fly everywhere, a sentiment that the majority of Spain's armed forces fiercely share.

Andropov insists on discipline

From Richard Owen

President Andropov yesterday hinted that further Soviet economic reforms were in the offing, but said they would be accompanied by a crackdown on "passivity and indiscipline", especially among the young.

Addressing party veterans at the Central Committee, Mr Andropov said Russia had reached the stage where it needed "turn our entire huge economy into a unilaterally functioning, well-adjusted mechanism".

The speech confirmed that Mr Andropov intends to offer Russians an example of discipline and hard work by pursuing his campaign for efficiency at a time when previous Soviet leaders have taken a prolonged summer break. The speech follows the announcement of limited economic experiments and the promulgation of a new law tightening labour discipline.

Mr Andropov said Russia would have to "make up for what we have lost", and that this would mean changes in planning, management and the economic mechanism. Such changes were obligatory if Russia was to enter the next five-year plan in two years' time "fully armed".

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The visit to Lourdes Simplicity, humour and fervour for the Pope

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

The Pope's second and last day at Lourdes was a distinctive blend of ceremony, simplicity, religious fervour, moments of humour and pervasive police protection.

Elaborating the theme he outlined on Sunday, the Pope spoke with deep emotion of the Christian faithful exposed to "a kind of civil war, not only by segregation in prison or in a camp, but also by permanent restriction of their personal liberty and by social discrimination."

Some 300,000 people were in Lourdes for the Pope's long and busy day, which started with mass at 7.30am and ended when he met M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, before returning to Rome by jet from Tarbes airport at 8pm.

Police searched some pilgrims' handbags and knapsacks, fearful that anarchist and other extreme left-wing groups had infiltrated Lourdes. Yesterday, one of the groups claimed responsibility for damaging the offices of a Catholic newspaper in Toulouse.

One of the day's few noisy incidents was a dispute between people carrying stretchers and pushing wheelchairs and sellers of a Catholic daily newspaper, *La Croix*. One of the lighter episodes was a rock and folk

concert given by a young Catholic group.

During the morning, local people and pilgrims gave the Pope dozens of presents, among them bread presented by a baker, wine of the region, cakes, records of local folk music, a pair of skis and a model of France's super-fast train, the TGV, some components of which are made at Tarbes.

After the second Mass of the day, in a field facing the basilica, the Pope was the guest of the French bishops at a lunch of melon, cold meats, lamb, vegetables, salad, pastries, fruit and coffee.

Earlier, speaking to them and to monks, nuns and priests in the basilica, the Pope affirmed strongly his belief in the importance of individual confession, both as an integral part of the faith, and as a release from sin that otherwise blocked human growth.

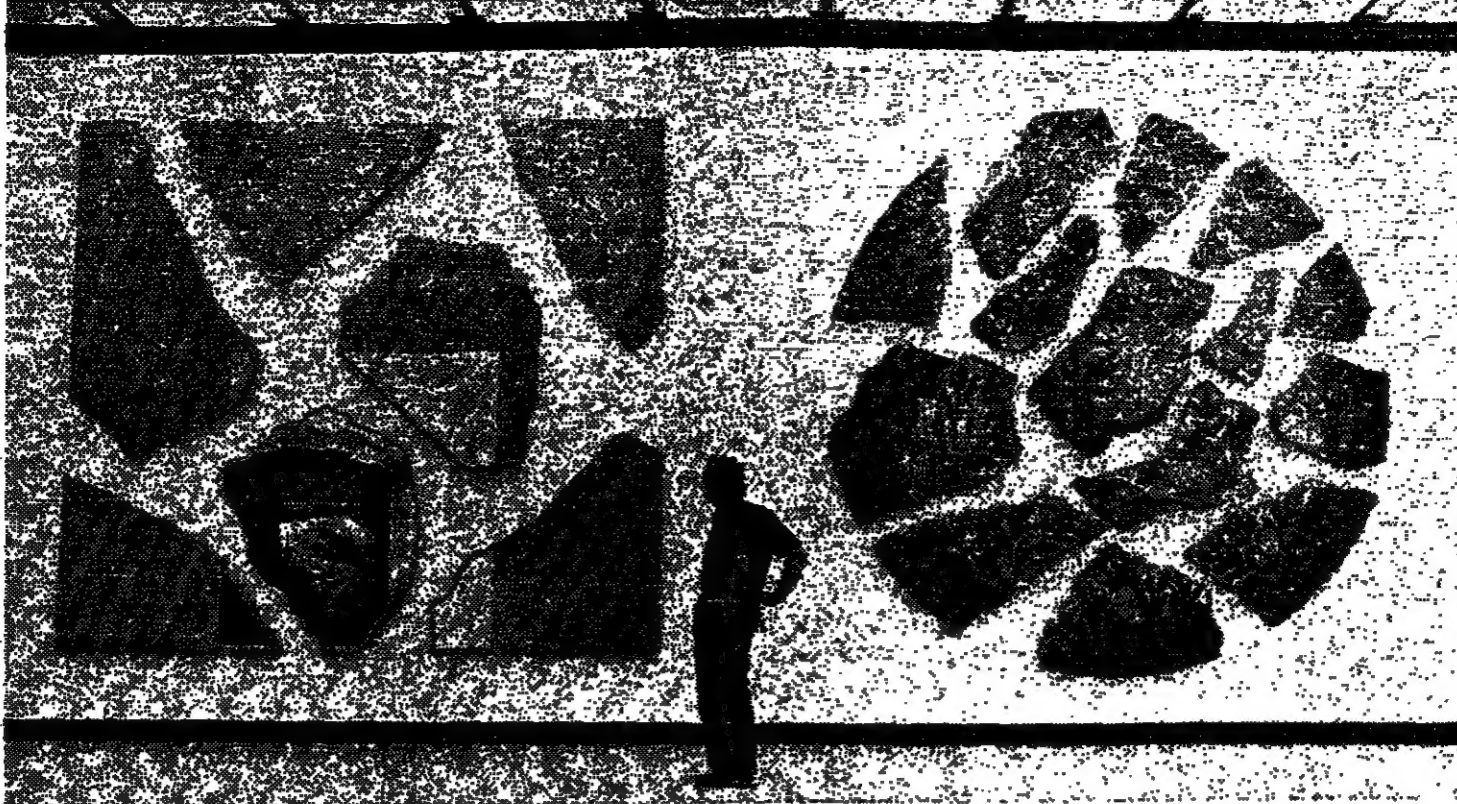
For France and the world, the Pope had a double message during his visit, the faith, and the need to struggle against intolerance and persecution in all their forms and for whatever reason. Time after time, he reminded his French listeners of their good fortune in living in a country dedicated to the preservation and expansion of human rights and peace.

THE ARTS

Galleries

Playing into the hands of those who pour scorn

Stephen Cox's *Ascent* (left) and *Tondo Ascension*, peppered with stains and oil paint: "exquisite evocations of painted walls in classical ruins"

The Sculpture Show
Hayward/Serpentine

Whether you regard *The Sculpture Show* as a triumph or a disaster may well depend on the order in which you see its sections. The superlatives which have been flying around in advance concerning its size are obviously justified: anything which can occupy the whole of the Hayward Gallery and the Serpentine Gallery, plus quite a bit of the concrete outside the former and the grassward outside the latter, has to be one of the biggest art shows staged in London in our time, and it is undoubtedly remarkable that it is devoted entirely to new sculpture, frequently by young and little-known artists. There can be nothing but admiration for the determination and flair with which the organizers have brought the 50 artists together, and thanks to the United Technologies Corporation for sponsoring the show to such an extent that admission is free.

How, then, can we look this gift horse in the mouth? Very easily – and not only because it is the duty of the critic to do just that. Of course it is my own taste in going on the line when I say that getting round the Hayward Gallery half is a deeply dispiriting experience. But I do earnestly try to imagine the visitor who would be set ablaze with enthusiasm, and fail to come up with a convincing image. It is almost as though this part of the show has been designed deliberately to play into the hands of the person who automatically assumes that what is called

sculpture today consists largely of random assemblages of garbage or, at best, of pieces of industrial metal-work. In room after room the pervasive impression is of litter: litter scattered over the floor; litter piled high; litter painted and lovingly displayed or litter left to fend for itself.

The sight is not, as Paul Temple used to say to Steve, a pretty one. And the depression induced by all this is if anything intensified by the frequent juxtaposition of finished works with project drawings, since almost invariably when this is done the drawing is far superior to the final product. What is shown up is primarily shoddy or insufficient workmanship, and even with the most advanced of art it does matter whether the artist, if he chooses not to stop at the concept merely, has the ability to realize that concept. Can anyone honestly look at the quite beautiful, magical drawings of, say, Carl Plickman or Michael Kenny, which are appreciably actuated by a sculptor's imagination, and then at the actual constructs of wood and metal they anticipate, and not feel a sharp sense of let-down?

When the works of the better-known sculptors of the middle generation are not disappointing (like Tony Cragg's *Drawn-on Objects*, which are precisely that and lack the wit and charm of his coloured plastic assemblages), they tend to opt for respectability and dullness, like Nigel Hall's delicately coloured wall-pieces, which look like very large high-tech towel rails. Downstairs there are pleasing splashes of colour from Anish Kapoor (blue and yellow) and

Jean-Luc Villemot (acid green), while in the brownish, dun-coloured range the odd fibrous constructions of Shirazeh Houshiary and Judith Cowan have their eccentric charms.

But elsewhere in the Hayward one is increasingly overcome by a sense of deliberately scraping around for something to like. There are, to be fair, things one can respond to without *arriver pensee*, but they are few and far between. Stephen Cox contributes a couple of pieces along the same lines as his last show at Nigel Greenwood: exquisite evocations of painted walls in classical ruins by way of what seem to be fragmentary reconstructions in painted stone. And Kenneth Draper, another sculptor who also shows related drawings and paintings, manages to match them with curious painted shapes, often mounted high up the wall, which make a lively, funny and sometimes slightly sinister impression while firmly refusing precise definition.

As one leaves the Hayward – supposing that is where you choose to start – questions hang heavy on the air. Why is there no real representational sculpture, which recreates something recognizable rather than merely presenting the thing itself? Can it be that, say, Malcolm Poynter and John Davies are regarded as too established for inclusion? (Presumably not, or William Tucker and Richard Long, among others, would hardly be there.) Or do the organizers agree in despising altogether the sort of sculpture that the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery shows? Surely, like it or not, it is a vital part of the sculptural scene in Britain today,

while a lot of what is on show looks rather faded and passé.

Arrival at the Serpentine does not answer that particular question; but certainly the cloud of gloom immediately lifts. Here in the first room we have Michael Sandle and, though it is to be hoped that he will get tired of his tomb and cat-fauna shapes fairly soon now, the sheer proficiency and imaginative intensity of what he is doing bring a blessed relief. And there is more unshamed representation all around. Not of the superrealist kind, on the whole, but at least sculpture which is made to establish some kind of imaginative relationship with the visible world about us. Laura Ford's animal sculptures have an unaccustomed fierceness; this dog, this pig, these sea-slugs are emphatically not cute, not in any way anthropomorphized, and the formal gestures of the sculpture are both powerful and precise. Also inside are Paul de Monchaux's exquisitely finished small Portland stone abstractions, Richard Deacon's big, shining galvanized steel constructions like *If the Shoe Fits* (which does look vaguely like a giant shoe) and *Two Can Play* (two large skeletal globes almost intersecting), and Bill Culbert's *Celebration*, a table set with wine glasses in which the play of light is as important as the objects lit.

And outside there are more pleasures. Perhaps the natural surroundings (if you call Kensington Gardens natural) enhance the effect of the sculpture. But I do not think it is just that. A large notice says firmly "Look, Touch, but do not Climb," and it is probably necessary, not in order to discourage vandals, but to

remind people that it could be unwittingly destructive to carry over too much of the *joie de vivre* implicit in the sculptures into one's response to them. But otherwise, in more durable materials, might not Andy Frost's plywood *Camel with the Hump* be perfectly at home in an adventure playground? Possibly the appeal of Hilary Cartnell's odd tangled shapes, rearing out of the grass as though from the sea-sand, is a little more adult, but again the impulse to roll around with her *Woman Under Sun or Shell Only Coming in on Waves* is well-nigh irresistible (though it might be a bit like rolling around with the creature from the Black Lagoon).

In other words, if you end up at the Serpentine, you are ending up in the right place. Not only is there a certain sense of liberation coming from the South Bank's plains of cement, but, more to the point, the sculpture is in general better: more lively in its conception, more eloquent in its execution. It is not clear whether there is any sort of plan behind this disposition, apart from the need to get everything in in the most efficient way. But seen Hayward first, then Serpentine, the show not only gives a pretty fair panorama of British sculpture today, but also tells a story with a happy ending. If you want to be really depressed, try it the other way round.

The show runs until October 9. From today until October 1 there is a supplementary show at the AIR Gallery of drawings by eight of the lesser-known sculptors exhibited.

John Russell Taylor

Rare opera

Osud
Queen Elizabeth Hall

It is not too much to say, after Sunday night's highly stimulating concert performance of *Osud*, or *Fate*, that another Janacek opera has been added to the canon. Simon Rattle's enthusiasm for the score, expressed on this page last Friday, might have seemed the zealotry of one immersed in the business of making it work, but turned out to have been not at all misplaced. Under his direction the London Sinfonietta revelled in music that is exuberantly brilliant and vivid even by Janacek's standards, and a cast singing credible Czech made their voices ride with passionate intensity above the turbulent orchestral flood.

Fate will surely not be allowed again to slip into the neglect it has suffered in this country (as indeed in Czechoslovakia), despite a BBC radio production in 1972 and the appearance of a recording six years later. Indeed, the strong presence among the audience of opera administrators, directors and conductors suggests that interest is already keen, and this performance can only have quickened it.

Any production, though, will have to be canny. *Fate* is the most closely autobiographical of Janacek's operas, and comes so near transposing reality that it becomes itself the subject of its own third act. Students are gathered around the score of their professor's new opera, which turns out to be the one we are hearing: there is a

dizzying moment when somebody mocks a passage from the second act, and suddenly the door is opened into a hall of mirrors. Zivny, our composer, has written his opera about a composer called Lenky. "Zivny" means "living"; Lenky, of course, is a character from another opera. Life reflects art reflecting life reflecting art.

The dramatic situation is, to say the least, entangled, which perhaps accounts for the quantity of non-sequiturs in the plot. However, these may also result from Janacek's insertion of himself into *Fate*, for Zivny is a deliberate self-portrait, drawn from an episode of amorous liaison in his recent past.

Much of Janacek's strength generally comes from the collision between a musical mind intent on pattern and a dramatic sensibility ruthlessly in search of realism. Writing an opera about an opera might seem a way of satisfying both, but Janacek does not let himself off the hook so easily. There are, to be sure, marvellous passages where Zivny sings of composition and the orchestra provide the music examples, but more commonly in this opera the clash between form and truth is a violent one. One outcome is a whole of a part for the composer: Philip Langridge here was ardent and ringingly authentic in feeling, Eilene Hannan was in lovely voice as his beloved Mila, and Felicity Palmer was striking as her crazed mother. No one need look further to cast the first British production.

Paul Griffiths

Iolanta
Snape Maltings

Tchaikovsky's last opera, *Iolanta*, premiered less than a year before his death, has been unpopular in post-revolutionary Russia and unjustifiably neglected in this country: it was last staged here 10 years ago by the English Opera Group at Sadler's Wells.

Rostropovich brought it to Russian on Sunday night to his festival, tailoring to its rich and varied vocal writing a concert-performance cast of resonant Russian principals and young British singers, some of them former students at the Britten-Pears school.

Where in *The Queen of Spades* obsessive love blinds and ends in tragic negation, in the later *Iolanta* love, in revealing and acknowledging the heroine's physical blindness, becomes its own salvation. And, of the same period as the "Fathetique", *Iolanta* turns its world over for a while to the bright side: the march is metamorphosed into a climactic life-affirming duet between Iolanta and the Count Vaudeumont, and hushed into a hymn of resolution.

Tchaikovsky drives his dramatic structure towards this goal through musical means which are sure and intense enough to make theatrical direction seem almost super-

fluous – at least when a performance is charged by pacing and momentum as potent as Rostropovich drew from the soloists, Geoffrey Mitchell Choir and English Chamber Orchestra.

An English text would have helped; but once the story was absorbed the expressive vocal artistry of Galina Vishnevskaya as Iolanta and the reverberant vocal and physical presence of Dmitri Petkov as her father, King René, made their own, simultaneous translation. While for the King Tchaikovsky provides surging arias that rival a Hermann or a Lensky, for the Count he releases his ripest, most exultant vocal writing, a perfect vehicle for the memorable Russian emigré tenor Misha Raizlin.

In sharpness of focus, commitment, even physical strain, there are resemblances to Masurok; but Raizlin's voice has all its urbane strength and resilience with a greater malleability, and even the sharper edge of character. Hugh Mackay risked his first stage encounter with him, but lifted his light, energetic baritone untrillingly to meet Tchaikovsky's demands. No less vigorous and idiomatic was the strong vocal characterization of Bertrand by Brian Bannatyne-Scott and the deeply felt Maria of Marcia Swanson.

Hilary Finch

London theatre

The Heart of the Mirror
ICA

Long programme-notes, particularly when they deal with obscure myths and legends, are usually an indication that the play itself is not going to explain satisfactorily what it is on about. Cardiff Lab's new work, accompanied by a lengthy written explanation which bandies about the names of Lilith, Isis and Osiris, is a case in point.

Through dreams, legends and psychoanalysis it attempts to deal with the broad theme of 3,000 years of patriarchal domination and to look forward to a world where a balance is reached between the masculine and feminine. The evening develops visually with little dialogue, in a way reminiscent of the People Show. At the back of the stage there are compartments with venetian blinds behind which the actors retreat after finishing their sketches. The stage has a number of trapdoors which serve as beds when raised or gates of hell when open to receive a guilt-

ridden patriarch. Throughout the evening the burning of St Joan, most famous victim of the fashion to persecute women as witches, is played upon. Another recurring image is first the Gestapo-style executioner/rapist in black leather and dark glasses who strides the stage in high boots searching for his prey.

In front of the stage is a couch on which Freud, played by Richard Gough, analyzes one of his patients, H.D., according to the programme-note, an American visionary poet called Hilde Doolittle, who was a patient of Freud's in 1933. Not surprisingly, the analysis is unsuccessful, with Freud grasping wildly at "the phallic significance of the lighted candles" when H.D. remembers a Christmastime scene.

The company must have had an interesting time doing their research and, no doubt, some satisfying sessions of improvisation. But the end result of half-digested myths and theories makes for an unilluminating work as far as the audience is concerned.

Clare Colvin

Theatre in the United States

Keeffe in crackling form

A Mad World, My Masters
La Jolla Playhouse

Barrie Keeffe's updated version of Middleton's *A Mad World, My Masters* looks like highly exotic fruit in the hush confines of the newly opened La Jolla Playhouse, situated in one of the most affluent beach communities in southern California, but it is as perky and pertinent here as it would be in the West End. The theatre, in keeping with the tradition of disastrous inaugural productions, opened a few months ago with a frenetic and unfocused production of Brecht's *Visions of Simone Machard*, third-rate Brecht at best. And here it was not at its best. But with Des McAnuff's sprightly production of the Keeffe play, the Playhouse has come bristlingly alive.

In keeping with the Californian obsession with staying young, the play has been given some major cosmetic surgery – the theatrical equivalent of facelifts, breast-bobs and bottom-tucks – and has emerged trim and sinewy. In place of Angela Rippon, whose upper-middle-class horniness was the butt of the original 1970 work by the Joint Stock Company, Margaret Thatcher herself is now the target of Keeffe's anti-bourgeois raucous. It is the Prime



Sprightly: Susan Cox

Minister who is now the object of the aphrodisiac desires of Horace Laughton (the would-be knight), and it is the same Mrs Thatcher, guyed by the Hackney housewife seeking revenge for her dead husband's lost annuity, who now performs the scandalous night-club act in which the Iron Maiden strips down to her G-spot, mercifully concealed by a microscopic Union Jack. Interspersed between the bumps and grinds, Mrs Thatcher lectures her audience on the state of the economy, the virtues of thrift and other related planks of the Conservative Party platform.

The consequence of the substitution of Thatcher for Rippon is that, when the play

devolves around the Queen and Buckingham Palace, it is something of a let-down. Clearly, in terms of burlesque, Her Majesty cannot hold a candle to Margaret Thatcher. Towards the last third of the evening, one is grimly aware of the play's grinding mechanics and feeling a little like the victim of a party-crown who is still reeling you with his imitations even as you have your hand on the door-knob.

Although inspired by Thomas Middleton (Keeffe took only his title), the work is infused with the rampaging comic spirit of Ben Jonson, and the improvements and assists grafted on to the play since its inception reveal a sturdy piece of basic craftsmanship with a marvellous, built-in chameleon quality. The bark of its working-class animus against unassailable privilege is much more threatening than its bite. Indeed, it is the play's lack of political conviction which makes it work so well as farce. Although Jonson is its mentor, Foyebean is its attendant spirit. It is too good a work to languish in the archives, and this La Jolla Playhouse production, with only one genuine English performer in the cast (Susan Cox's Ma Sprightly), makes one realize just how fecund a talent we have in Mr Keeffe.

Charles Marowitz

Rock

Crime's lead singer, Gregory Grey, is an extraordinary performer; he hovers on the brink of total excess but somehow manages to make that work to his advantage. More will be heard of them.

Big Country, the band started by the former Slid Stuart Adamson, play a hybrid of folk-country and powerful guitar-dominated hard rock. They use effects to conjure up images of ghostly pipers and the great outdoors. Their strength is the patriotic intensity of Adamson's material, because he is not a great singer and the band are not an exciting visual spectacle. Even so, songs like "Fields of Fire" and "Chance" show that they are instrumentally expert. It is difficult to resist their swirling Scottish dance rhythms.

Eurythmics' set had the first moments of genuine tension, musical and physical, as an element in the audience took violent exception to Annie Lennox and her striking repertoire of postures and voices. For a while she threatened to halt the performance altogether. That marred what was otherwise an excellent show. Eurythmics are now among the most popular bands in the world.

Simple Minds, Scotland's biggest band, also possess a riveting front man in the singer Jim Kerr, a graceful mover who works the stage and the crowd without resorting to obvious ploys. Simple Minds' music is a blend of surprise and romance. Among their most recent songs, "New Gold Dream" and "Glittering Prize" stand out as hopeful anthems for the confused youth of Britain.

The biggest emotional charge of the day had to come from U2. They are an institution: the most successful of all Irish bands. The lead singer, Bono, had the crowd eating from the palm of his hand throughout. U2's music was also the most conventional of the day, proving again that rock fans prefer their heroes to be simple men capable of making grand gestures. Bono has that necessary star quality and the band are adept at disguising escapism as reality. Music for and about youth, it is harmless, invigorating and safe. In fact the major danger with U2 is Bono's insistence on clambering up the side-stage scaffolding. Still, the crowd adored him and Dave Edge, the group's enigmatic lead guitarist.

Max Bell

U2 and Guests
Phoenix Park, Dublin

Last weekend's festival was probably the most important cultural event in Dublin since the Pope's personal appearance in 1979. While the bands had to make do with a crowd of some 20,000 and John Paul II pulled over a million, the luxurious racecourse still thrived with the religious fervour of the second coming. In this case most of the audience were waiting for the return of the prodigal sons U2, but the day offered a unique opportunity to contrast the new breed of Celtic superstars. The bill was almost a definitive collection of the grown-up class of the late seventies bands. If U2, Simple Minds and Big Country were the Gaelic holy trinity, traditional male rock groups in a modern idiom, there was also the chance to see Britain's finest female vocalist, Annie Lennox, the reggae stalwarts Steel Pulse and an exciting new outfit, Northern Ireland's Perfect Crime.

Their fresh attitude, soulful pop-songs and willingness to take chances won the crowd over immediately. Perfect Crime, does lie "beneath" it; they are certainly quite unable to speculate about it. A Moment to Talk (BBC 2) presented some unemployed Asian workers in Bradford. Apart from a more vivacious vocabulary – "Nobody listens to the poor! They grab us by the throat!" – the problems which they rehearsed, of racial discrimination, poverty and unemployment, were depressingly familiar. "There must be a solution", one of them declared. But their audience will be of no help in finding one: television only teaches us to gawp at other peoples' distress. Perhaps that is the secret of *Motives*.

Peter Ackroyd

Concerts

St John Passion
Albert Hall/Radio 3

It has been enthralling to observe, over the last decade or so, how the textures, the rhetoric and indeed the meaning of Bach's great choral works have been gradually transformed by the use of period instruments, old playing techniques and small vocal forces, under such diverse conductors as Roger Norrington, Paul Steinitz, John Eliot Gardiner and Martin Neumeier.

At first glance, Sunday night's Prom performance of the St John Passion under Andrew Parrott looked a regressive step, for here we were back with a doubled wind and a solid-sized choir. And, of course, "authentic" sounds can never fill an inauthentic barn like the Albert Hall.

Yet in the event this splendidly successful, highly musical compromise represented a significant step forward. There has been something about many of these Bach performances, Parrott's especially, inevitably experimental and unfinished; but here, in the second part at least, was a performance of polish and conviction. Parrott did not eschew a weighty approach, and drew singing of the utmost force from his Taverner Choir in the crucifixion choruses; he urged a weary heaviness in the last chromatic line of "Durch dein Gefängnis" and magnificently sonorously chording in "In meines Herzens Grunde".

Most Evangelists tire through the long evening of a Bach Passion: Nigel Rogers, after an uneven, edgy start, blossomed into a fiery, dramatic narrator who drew the whole message of the Passion home in the words "auf dass ihr glaubet". Ulfkold, a massive, dominating Christus, was less well focused,

and he absent-mindedly pinched a line from Pilate. That might not have mattered had Pilate not been sung by David Thomas, an incomparably strong, precise and forceful characterization.

Emma Kirkby articulated the chromatic ascents of "Ich folge dir gleichfalls" with rare, beautiful control, and sang the continuo-like strains of "Zerflüsse mein Herze" echoing over some untypically bumpy wind playing. Margaret Cable duetted most effectively with excellent oboes in her first aria and then with the wily, poised gamba solo of Charles Medlam in "Es ist vollbracht".

Nicholas Kenyon

Young composers
ICA

This year's evening devoted to young composers in the ICA's "MintCA" series began with a pair of experiments which have to be deemed failures. First there was Helen Rose's *Paper/Scissors*... Rock for two violas, a mobile score conceived as a game in which the soloists, Alexander Balanescu and Elizabeth Perry, react to each other's choice of material with lightning reflexes. Despite the fertility of many of its ideas (not least the mimed sections, which created a surprising atmosphere of suspense) this was a work which simply outstayed its welcome.

The subject-matter of Andrew Thompson's *Worker's Rubble*, for wind and string quintet, does not seem to be socialism. Rather, he takes a point of the work, not so much melody from Gretzy and Schubert to Scriabin's *Prometheus*, and subjects them to various arrangements. Again two violas take the lion's share of work. Perhaps I missed the point, but only in the final blaze of colour,

when Nancy Ruffer's flute and Roger Heaton's clarinet enriched the texture, did I feel this worker to be really hard at it.

No doubts about the application of Anthony Powers in his *Quintet*, in which clarity of design (this piece alternates tonal centres of C sharp and G) and its very abstraction brought to mind Peter Maxwell Davies's recent work. Here there was an imagination sizzling with energy, and the composer is rightly unafraid of sounding derivative. The central scherzo was particularly exhilarating, and the brief final passacaglia showed admirable economy as well as dramatic intensity.

Christopher Fox's *d-amore* had yet another approach to offer. Its first movement, from which all else sprang, was a jagged monody à la Messiaen, where the omnipresent violin was joined at various times by flute, clarinet and cello. The remainder offered an abundance of skills, whether in the way the pizzicato violin picked out the tune in the second movement, in the naturalistic murmurs and twitters of the third, or in the ceremonial, chorale-like fourth.

Finally to Paul Robinson's *The Geissler Monodies*. Here again there were echoes of Maxwell Davies, albeit his earlier music, by virtue of the fact that the piece was a complex transformation of a pre-existing melody. In this case it was a song sung by the flagellants who travelled Europe trying to evade (and hence spreading) the Black Death. At times one felt the need for a screaming Mary Thomas to vulgarize the drama. But the point of the work was not so much theatre as subtle evocation, and its ending, a two-part canon version of the tune which gradually fades to nothing, was a neat variation on the closing bars of *Taverner*.

Stephen Pettitt

Television

Speculating about success

Sid Weighell was quite the most interesting guest to have appeared on Dr Anthony Clare's *Motives* (BBC 2). Like Petula Clark in last week's encounter, Mr Weighell was resolutely unimpressed by Dr Clare's professional stance; perhaps his chapel background has immunized him against even putative figures of authority. He refused to descend to the more conventional forms of self-analysis, and when Clare discussed the "disciplining of emotions" he talked about the importance of regular meal-times – just as important a subject, of course.

But all this was merely the prelude, since Dr Clare was obviously eager to discuss the one tragedy of his life in 1956,

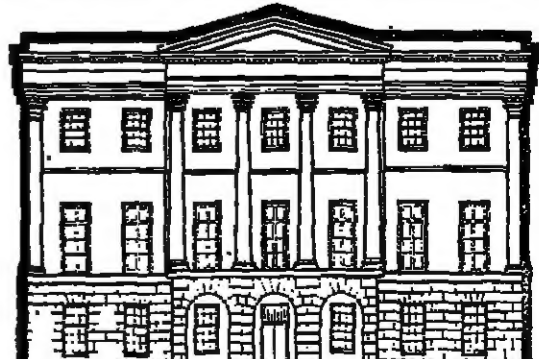
his wife and daughter were killed in a car crash. Mr Weighell went into seclusion for several months afterwards and then, having decided to face the world again, it took him five or six years even partially to "shake off" the burden.

Mr Weighell is obviously a combative and determined man, who enjoyed the exercise of power and relished the loneliness or self-reliance which accompanied it. Dr Clare elicited that much at least, but was not really able to probe beneath what was essentially Mr Weighell's own description of himself. That may be the one lesson of the series: those who achieve great success may be unconcerned with what, if

anything, does lie "beneath" it; they are certainly quite unable to speculate about it.

A Moment to Talk (BBC 2) presented some unemployed Asian workers in Bradford. Apart from a more vivacious vocabulary – "Nobody listens to the poor! They grab us by the throat!" – the problems which they rehearsed, of racial discrimination, poverty and unemployment, were depressingly familiar. "There must be a solution", one of them declared. But their audience will be of no help in finding one: television only teaches us to gawp at other peoples' distress. Perhaps that is the secret of *Motives*.

Peter Ackroyd



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SPECTRUM

When big became beautiful

In 1967, in the midst of a crisis, I had told our bank manager that Biba would one day be like Harrods. He gave me a long, puzzled look and said, "Do you really want that?" I was adamant.

Each day as I walked from the Church Street shop to the new site in Kensington High Street, I had examined the Derry and Toms department store building close by. It was so beautiful and so unappreciated. No one there had any respect for the building or its superb detail. It had been a star in its heyday but now, as it grew old and dusty, no one even gave it a glance. I began to daydream that one day we would bring it back to its original splendour.

Later, when the High Street shop was open, I noticed a tree on the roof of Derry and Toms, and realized there was a roof garden. One lunchtime in 1969, when my son Witold came to the shop with his nanny, the sun was shining and I said, "Let's go up and see this 'garden in the sky'." We walked over to the store, got into the rickety lift that went straight up to the roof, and stepped out into another world - a most beautiful, well-kept garden. Somebody clearly adored and cared for it, although it had few flowers.

We walked around the corner and there was another garden. Witold ran on to the little wooden bridge that crossed a narrow stream and we played Billy Goat Gruff for a while and then went on to examine the tatty-looking flamingoes. We felt a million miles away from the noisy street below. Looking over the balustrade we could see the whole skyline of London around us.

"Fitz, one day we must have this place," I said.

"Right, I'll get it for you," he replied. For the next two years I collected bits of furniture, cuttings of old carpets, mouldy old curtains with interesting weaves, and books and references about Derry and Toms. Any information that I might later need would be at my fingertips. I also collected people who would be useful for the big moment.

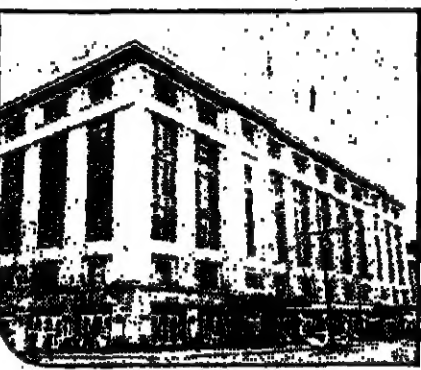
Anyone who was original was commissioned to do something specific for Biba. Myra Conin, for example, spent two years mixing up the basic colours for all sorts of designs. Sometimes she would spend days mixing a brown until it was the correct shade we needed for a carpet. Eventually one could describe a colour to her verbally and she would be able to put it down on paper. She spent months decorating the 1930s bust that was duplicated in glass fibre throughout the big shop.

We felt shocked when we heard that our dream was going to be either shattered or forced upon us far earlier than we imagined. After all, we had only just moved to the High Street. By chance the head of the public relations agency we used knew Sir Hugh Fraser, the chairman of Derry and Toms, and heard that he was planning to sell. She organized a dinner party at her house in Windsor and invited Sir Hugh and us. It was a very high-powered party. Literally over the port and cigars Fitz managed to bring up the subject of Derry and Toms. Was Sir Hugh really selling? Sir Hugh was not sure. Would

Abridged from *From A to Biba* by Barbara Hulanicki, published by Hutchinson on September 5, price £8.95



BIBA



Above left: the author in the roof garden. Below left: the Art Deco palace. Right: Twiggy shows off the Big Biba style

Sir Hugh gave us first option if he decided to sell? He might and he might not, but we left the party with the distinct impression that the building was available if we could raise the money.

The next step was to sell the idea to our partners. Fitz went to Bracknell, armed with reams of figures, to persuade the Dorothy Perkins board. We had agreed that come what may we were going to have that building, and if the answer was "no", from Bracknell we had flights booked the next day for New York, where we had connections who might back us. But Dorothy Perkins agreed.

'Sir Hugh tells me he has sold to you. I must have £400,000 in my hands by tonight'

The next stage was a formal lunch at Claridge's with Sir Hugh Fraser. David Roxburgh and John Ritblatt were there representing Dorothy Perkins. Ritblatt, small and sallow, was the head of a huge property company, British Land, who were property advisers to Dorothy Perkins, and took charge of the negotiations. The lunch dragged on with Ritblatt and Fraser telling stories

Synonymous with Swinging London, Biba had by the late 1960s become an established part of the London fashion scene. A successful boutique selling trend-setting clothes was, however, no longer enough for the business's founder, Barbara Hulanicki, and her husband, Stephen Fitz-Simon. Backed by the Dorothy Perkins fashion chain, they planned a momentous expansion into famous premises just across the road. In the second of three extracts from her forthcoming biography, Barbara Hulanicki describes the birth-pangs of an adventure which was to bring down the Biba empire



about the deals they had done. At the end of it everyone said goodbye and nothing seemed to have been accomplished.

One Friday afternoon at about 4 o'clock Fitz heard a rumour that the building was about to be sold to someone else. He rang Roxburgh, who rang Ritblatt on another line, and both said there was no more that they could do. The deal was lost. Fitz was cursing Sir Hugh Fraser. "He bloody promised it to us."

"Ring him up," I suggested. Sir Hugh was at his desk in Glasgow. Fitz said, "I hear you are selling the building."

"Yes," said Sir Hugh. "You promised it to us," said Fitz. "Have you got £3.9m?" "Yes," said Fitz, who had no idea how far Dorothy Perkins might go. "Stay by your phone," said Sir Hugh.

Two minutes later a call came through to Fitz from the director in charge of the House of Fraser in London. It was very dramatic. "I can't talk loud," he said. "I have British Home Stores with me and I am about to sign with them. Sir Hugh tells me that he has sold to you. I must have £400,000 in my hands by tonight."

Fitz went a bit white but promised it would be with him in one and a half hours. He rang Roxburgh with the news. Roxburgh was speechless but

passed it on to Ritblatt who, knowing a bargain when he saw one, arranged the transfer of the money within the hour.

One afternoon in the summer of 1972 Fitz came to my desk carrying a copy of the *Evening Standard* and looking very white. The headline on the City page carried the announcement that Dorothy Perkins had been taken over by British Land.

The shock was awful. It is every retailer's nightmare to be controlled by a property developer. The two have interests that are totally at loggerheads. The landlord must get the maximum rent while the shopkeeper must fight for every last penny. Furthermore, as we read the article, we saw that the control was passing to a board of directors composed of two accountants, a personnel manager and someone from an advertising agency. There was not one retailer among them. The situation was going to be impossible.

We both knew that we should resign at that moment. Biba was still at its peak: we would have been financially very well off, and we could have walked away and let them get on with it. On the other hand, Biba was our child and to desert her now was impossible. We knew that from that day forward we would have a fight to the end on our hands.

The first day of the building work was really impressive. Before we could

start we had to clear out all the rubbish and bits of odd shopfitting left behind by Derry and Toms. We had more than 600 men in the building on that first day. Half of them appeared to have worked for us as some time or other in the past. Shouts of "Hello, Barbara" followed me as I walked about between the heaps of debris. As the rubbish was cleared it was wildly exhilarating to see revealed for the first time the beautiful Art Deco details of the building.

The only thing that was not functioning was the computer that was meant to tell us exactly where we were. Every evening Fitz would spend hours working out where our budget was overrunning and what we could reduce or eliminate if we were not to overspend. Every day the situation changed as unexpected complications and problems emerged.

At last the moment came when I had to start laying out the merchandise. Fitz had worked out a schedule floor by floor and department by department for when the shopfitting would be complete and the merchandise in the stock rooms. I had six weeks and over 100,000 square feet of shop, and I was the only person who could do it. As I had designed or bought each thing, I had a mental picture of how they would all work together, and it was impossible to transmit the overall impression to others.

The huge display units had arrived. They were reassembled in their final places and the finishing touches applied. As each department was finished, the manageresses and stock-room workers would assemble a cross section of all the stock around me and I would start to work.

The store had gone quiet: the workmen had left and there was an enormous silence

The first department to be ready we called the Casbah. It was on the front corner of the ground floor and comprised all the things that we had picked up and seen on our travels from Turkey via Beirut to Morocco. At about 6.30 one night the store had gone quiet: the workmen had left and there was an enormous silence. Through the brown paper-covered windows I could hear the traffic and the life outside. There was a busking bagpiper playing outside Barker's, the store across the street. According to Fitz's schedule I only had until I am to complete this part, and after I had worked for two hours lifting heavy brass objects, I seemed to have been going backwards.

My back was aching, and I felt completely lost. I had been vaguely aware of two girls sitting near me, watching what I was doing. As I wearily approached another large brass pot, one of them walked over and lifted it before I could get there.

"Are you OK, Barbara?" It was Aina, the leader of our shop-assistants' union, sitting with her friend Gunda, waiting and hoping to be involved. By the time Fitz came back, all set to work through the night to help me, the job was done.

The next day I moved on to the shoe department, a huge mirrored unit right in the middle of the ground floor. We arrived as usual at 8 am and found to our amazement that the stock was already laid out waiting for us. Normally we would spend about an hour waiting for the hands to arrive to enable us to start. To find everything in place when we got there was a miracle. Far away in a corner on our newly installed escalator sat the six committee members of the union, looking rather sheepish. We went over and Fitz thanked them.

"Well," said Aina, with some contempt, "she can't do it by herself, can she?"

Not only had they helped but they had helped with thought and understanding. These girls, who had been with us for two or three years, dealing with customers under terrific pressure all day long, really did know what we were trying to do, sometimes more than we realized.

On the last day everything was as nearly ready as we were going to get it. It was a Sunday and all our staff had been working non-stop 12 hours a day for three weeks. Every sweater was in its pigeonhole. Every last fireproofed plastic grape was in place on the children's floor, shoes and room sets and men's suits were all in position. The food hall could only do their display at the last minute, for obvious reasons. The security guards were in their uniforms. The waiters had had endless hours of rehearsal.

I felt almost disappointed that the preparations were over. Fitz and I took a final walk through the six floors and 400,000 square feet of our total empire. I rummaged into stock rooms and staff rooms and offices, but I could find nothing wrong.

We left well before midnight. It was the first time we had been outside the Big Biba and could see it with all the lights blazing in the windows. I knew that it was not perfect, but I thought I had a lifetime to make it so.

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**TOMORROW:
The pinstripe
brigade moves in**

moreover...
Miles Kington

**An old
master by
mail order**

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"I had no idea until I sent you my old Spanish portrait that it was by Goya. That is probably because I had never noticed the signature in the bottom corner before. Quite honestly, I don't think it was there before. To be absolutely honest, the signature used to read E. Alberto Sanchez. Thank you, thank you, for the transformation!"

"Recently I sent you a couple of obscure French prints. You never sent them back. Instead I received from you two dozen blank sheets of paper. Blank, that is except for the authentic signature of Pablo Picasso across the bottom. I am now having the sheets filled up with Picasso drawings by the expert whose name you kindly gave me. Thank you a million times. PS: Keep the French prints!"

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But surely, you may say, these are services provided by many more famous art and auction houses than ours. Well, yes and no. Yes, many international art dealers can take your painting and turn it into something quite different. But no, they cannot do it by return of post, as Moreover Studios can. We are the first genuine 24-hour picture service in the fine art world.

"I recently opened my studio home to the public for the first time, but I find that visitors are disappointed not to see portraits of my ancestors lining the grand staircase. I wonder if you could help me to put that right? I ought to add that I have only been in possession of the house for five years and that I can only trace my family back to my grandfather, who made the family fortune in vegetable oils."

Just one of the many letters we get from art-conscious millionaires with more money than pictures. In this case we were able to supply him with a complete set of family oils reaching back to 1606 by the weekend. In addition, we suggested a new feature to him; a complete set of paintings of the butlers of the old house! This he accepted, and he reports that it has become a firm favourite with the public.

But our main work has always been with the improvement of existing paintings.

There is no canvas or drawing, however boring or old, which cannot be improved out of recognition by the signature of an art expert, certifying it to be a Samuel Palmer or Carpaccio or indeed anyone you like. We can also arrange for:

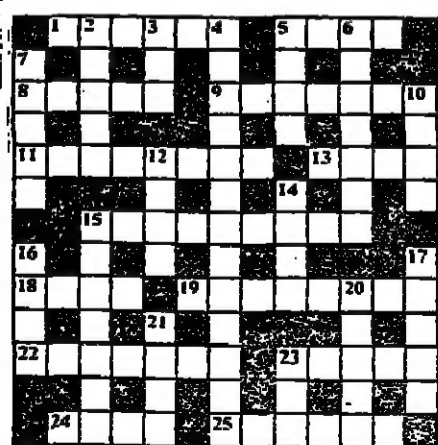
● The addition of up to a dozen fruit to a pre-existing still life.
● The purchase by a national gallery of your hitherto unknown masterpiece.
● The transformation of an old book illustration into a new, glowing oil painting.

Very soon, we hope to extend our operations on an international level, so that we will be able to remove the painting of your choice from any Italian church, acquire objects from a current archaeological dig and obtain statutory which Melina Mercouri would rather have remaining in Greece.

Meanwhile, remember that Moreover Studios are open night and day. A thing of beauty is a joy for ever. From 24 hours after you send it to us! The service is not cheap, but we guarantee that your picture will quadruple in value within a week.

Remember the name. Moreover. Modern art dealing at its finest.

**CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 126)**



ACROSS
1 Rainwater gully
5 Secure (4)
8 Weighty (5)
9 Acid (7)
11 Lawyer (8)
13 Composition (4)
15 Fiddle player (9)
18 Troubles (4)
19 Coaster (8)
22 Acrobat's bar (7)
23 Simple (5)
24 Article (4)
25 Discusses terms (6)

DOWN
2 Not suitable (5)
3 A river (3)
4 Filling up (13)
6 Without (4)
7 Shabby cinema (7)
10 Nonsense (4)
12 Building cover (4)
14 Flood barrier (4)
16 Courageous (7)
17 Blow gently (4)
18 Amphitheatre centre (5)
20 Sprang (5)
21 Ship's breadth (4)
23 Jumbled type (3)

SOLUTION TO No 125
ACROSS: 1 Partnership 9 Hamlet 10 Abate
11 Ham 13 Min 16 Lair 17 Outcry 18 Edin
20 Berg 21 Battle 22 Mist 23 Tzar 25 CND
26 Ideal 29 Implant 30 Insecticide
DOWN: 2 Admit 3 Tuna 4 Each 5 Sham
6 Innamate 7 Chambermaid 8 Refrigerate
12 Acetate 14 Too 15 Attain 19 Hasbeen 20 Bet
24 Scaled 25 Clue 26 Diet 27 Spec

**What the papers
say about the
Fiat Uno.**

"The interior is luxuriously finished and the outside lines have been softened to make it different from the current crop of lookalike hatchbacks."

SUNDAY MIRROR

"The results from the rigorously controlled annual Motability Economy Run are frankly staggering. My own figure was 75.27 mpg at an average speed of 44.77 mph."

GUARDIAN

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MOTOR

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combination.
From £3,300**



Interferon kits

It is still too early to predict with confidence whether interferon will really find a place in the treatment of cancer, the common cold or more serious viral diseases but many trials are under way and even more are promised. One important aspect of these will be to determine for how long the interferon remains in the blood stream and the best doses to keep the level of interferon in the blood stream at its optimum for effective therapy.

The measurement of interferon levels has traditionally been complex, inaccurate and time-consuming. Two years ago a much more convenient method was devised in Cambridge. It took advantage of an experimentally produced "monoclonal" antibody against interferon.

Celltech, Britain's only sizable biotechnology company, have just begun to sell the method in kit form so that anyone carrying out a trial of interferon should be able to monitor its blood level. The kit could also be used to detect individuals who produce too little of their own interferon and so might benefit from more of it. The only snag is that the kit does not detect all of the types of interferon that the human body produces and which are being tested as drugs.

Space experiment

A mixture of proteins, some of them from blood, was separated far more efficiently on last month's space shuttle than in a comparable ground-based experiment. The sponsors of the experiment, the aerospace firm McDonnell Douglas and purveyors of baby powder (and pharmaceuticals) Johnson & Johnson, believe that there is a commercial future in separating out substances of therapeutic value in that way.

They argue that the extremely high cost of a shuttle-borne experiment will be more than offset by the great advantages of running separation techniques under zero gravity. Already, without interference of gravity, several hundreds of times the volume of liquid have been processed in space as in the same time span on earth; and the purity of

FINDINGS

A series reporting
on research
BIOTECHNOLOGY

the separated products is greater.

The sponsors are not prepared to reveal what they have in mind as commercial products of space biotechnology and many find it hard to believe in the economy of the process, whatever the product. Nevertheless, according to Science News, in 1985 it is planned to have a McDonnell Douglas engineer abroad a shuttle to separate enough of a substance of use in the treatment of protein-deficiency disease to put it through clinical trials.

Tough tobacco

It may seem curious that plant scientists are busy producing tobacco plants that are antibiotic resistant when tobacco farmers are not in the habit of spraying their fields with antibiotics, but nothing frivolous is intended. It just so happens that a bacterial gene for antibiotic resistance is a convenient starting point from which to develop new systems for introducing valuable genes into plants.

The most advanced system for doing so is very cunning. It makes use of bacteria that infect wounds of certain broad-leaved plants and produce tumours near the wounds. In the process some of the bacterial genes become permanently integrated into those of the plant. What biotechnologists plan to do is to replace the tumour-causing bacterial genes with genes that will benefit the plant or, to be more accurate, the plant breeder.

For example, if a crop plant could be endowed with a gene for resistance to weed killers, the crop would suffer less when its fields are sprayed with the substance.

If any of that sounds easy, it is not. Nonetheless progress is being made steadily with model systems chosen for their ease and convenience. One such is the introduction of antibiotic resistance genes

into cells of tobacco plants. Success is measured by the ability of the cells to grow in the presence of the antibiotic.

Growth hormone

It is down on the farm among uncomplaining animals that biotechnology is set to make many of its earliest impacts. Recently an American company matched an earlier European launch of a vaccine against a diarrhoeal disease of young pigs.

Genentech, one of the largest of the American companies, is more interested in growth hormone. It began by turning bacteria to the production of human growth hormone but has since worked its way down through cows, pigs and sheep to turkeys and chickens. The idea, in each case, is to supplement animal feed with growth hormone with the aim of producing a rapid rate in the animals with a faster turnover for the farmer.

Meanwhile the use of human growth hormone, produced by bacteria, is already the subject of advanced clinical trials. Although there is evidence of one side effect, it should not be too long before an adequate supply of bacterially produced hormone does away with the current grisly extraction of it from the glands of human cadavers.

Polymer bonus

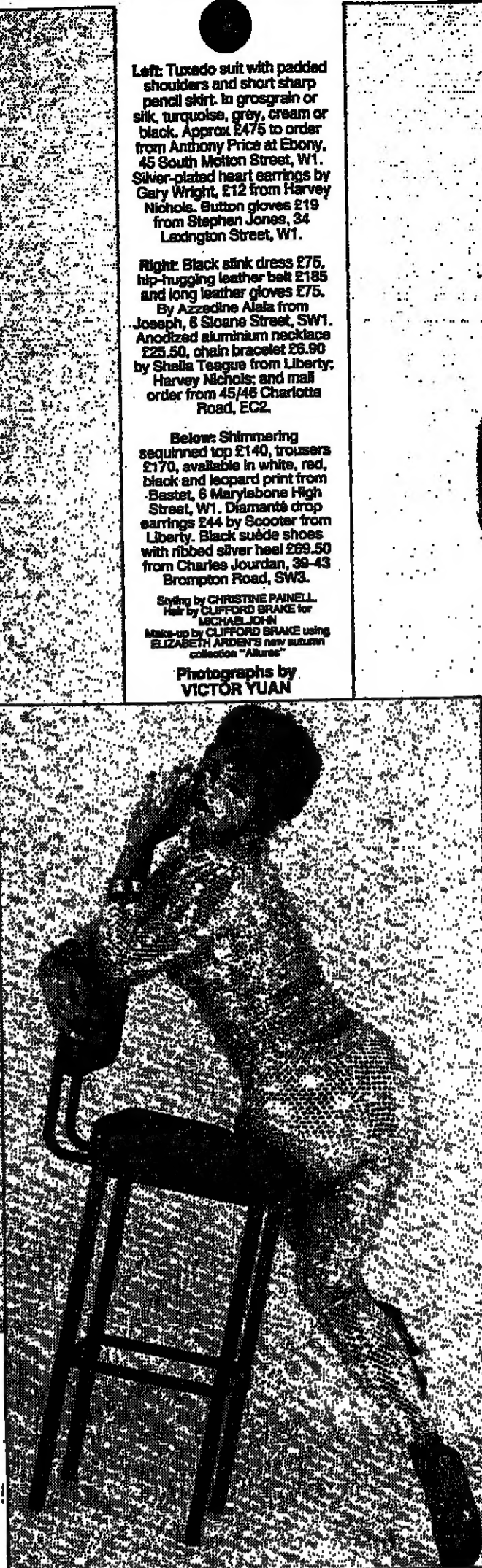
The day of the biodegradable plastic bottle came a step closer recently with the formation of the new company of Marlborough Biopolymers. The company's aim is to find uses and a market for the bacterially-produced polymer that has been developed by ICI, joint owner of the company.

The double bonus of the polymer, PHB, is that it is not only produced by bacteria but can be degraded by them, avoiding petrochemicals and pollution at the same time, but perhaps producing problems for storage. In practice, there is some way to go before the polymer can be made into plastic products and before the process is cheap enough to compete with existing technology.

Peter Newmark

سك ان الصل

هكذا من الأمل



Styling by CHRISTINE PAINELL.
Hair by CLIFFORD BRAKE for
MICHAEL JOHN
Make-up by CLIFFORD BRAKE using
ELIZABETH ARDEN's new autumn
collection "Allures"
**Photographs by
VICTOR YUAN**



SUZY MENKES is on holiday

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THE TIMES DIARY

Open invitation

It is 14 months since County and District Properties, at the behest of Kensington and Chelsea council, knocked a gaping hole in Kensington Old Town Hall. Local conservation groups are worried that company and council may now have found a way of finishing the job. The DOE granted the council permission to demolish the surviving building, but only when building contractors were signed for the "firm development scheme" proposed to replace it. Now County and District have filed a fresh application scheme (their fourth) with Kensington and Chelsea, and unlike its predecessors this one looks acceptable on planning grounds. But can the royal borough be trusted to insist on the same conditions as were imposed on them by the Secretary of State? Having seen letters from the borough's chief executive to County and District urging them to wreck "the maximum possible damage" before a conservation order could be imposed, I think I can answer that. Hardly.

● The Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute provides the following information about the 1,840,000 articles lost on Japan National Railways last year. They included 156 sets of false teeth, six chickens, "a rabbit still enjoying the hospitality of the Shinjū police station; and a beetle, of which no further news".

No marks

Dr Gunnel Totté of Uppsala University admires the open-mindedness of the Anglican church in mounting in York Minster the German Democratic Republic's devoted Marxist exhibition commemorating Luther's quinqucentenary. Yet the doctor suspects the organizers had tongue in cheek when retaining some of the texts. For example: "Accordingly to Lord Byron the struggle for freedom, once starting, bleedily left its own trail, although with great efforts, always be won". Which bit of Byron is that, Totté asks.

BARRY FANTONI



"And over here we have the new Austin Marx"

Close season

For three million and more unemployed there is a certain irony in the fact that over the past two weeks the Department of Employment's staff training centre in Tottenham Court Road has been closed between 2 and 3 pm for lack of a doorman. "Because of sickness and holidays we could not staff the entrance throughout the day", a spokesman said. "The doorman we had kindly arranged to take a late lunch, all staff were notified, and we were able to arrange to meet callers at the door by appointment".

What a pain

In the great PHSausage joke quest, today's prize goes to Richard Hunt for the following: an Englishman apologized to a French guest about the quality of English bread, describing it as a tribute to the bakers' art of getting water to stand upright, and defining an English loaf as a steam-baked, chemically-bleached, parallel line piped in a polythene shroud. The Frenchman disagreed, and said that, on the contrary, English bread was the most tasty and nutritious in the world. "The only thing that puzzles me", he continued, "is why you call it sausages".

● Incidental information from the South Bank immediately before Act II of Janacek's *On an elderly gentleman* turned to two women behind him and said, with some urgency: "You must get a potty at Mothercare. Potties are unavailable in Poland, and they are only 95p at Mothercare".

Carriage class

British Rail is still striving for the take-off talk of after its improved financial results last week. On the 1500 InterCity 125 from Edinburgh on Saturday, all drinks in the buffet were being served in British Airways glasses. Even so the train was a few minutes late at King's Cross.

Not to be outdone by foreign competitors, British restaurateurs are fighting back with culinary innovations of their own. A cafe in Eadell Street, Covent Garden, tempted T. J. Boshman with "cheese and onion kishkes", but even that was not as titillating as the offer to Arthur Ables, by the Red Lion, Ebury Street, of a "quick Lorraine". N. Hill fancied his find at the Queen's Head, Walton-on-the-Naze, rather less: "King Size Dog in French bread". After that he might have needed what Geoff Ellis saw in Rialto Broadway: "Garlic coffee".

PHS

Bernard Levin gives his verdict on the British 'Ring'

Driving straight to the heart of Wagner's heroic mystery



Freia (Anita Solih), on whose golden apples the gods live, is the giant's foe for building Valhalla: the Ring is her ransom

From where I stand, waiting for the faun to summon us back to our seats and wondering whether I have time for another brace of sausages before the interval ends, I can see, among the British contingent alone, a former Prime Minister, a Secretary to the Cabinet, a former Minister of the Arts, a former chairman of Covent Garden, a royal duke, a Warden of Wadham, a genius, a saviour of Venice, a young composer on his honeymoon, a director-general, and a man who claims to have acquired a ticket for *Götterdämmerung* this very morning by mingling with the seething crowd outside the box office (sold out since last November) in search of what he called "the most obviously criminal face I could spot" and, when he spotted it, asking it out of the corner of his mouth whether it had one of the precious pieces of cardboard to sell at double the official price, being instantly rewarded for both his ingenuity and his perspicacity by discovering that he had hit, first go, upon the leading ticket-tout of the Bayreuth Festival, if not of all Bavaria.

But why do we do it? This year, at any rate, there is an extra answer. When Georg Solti and Peter Hall (they are known as "die Sols") in the town were engaged for the new Bayreuth Ring, they promised that they, together with Hall's chosen designer, William Dudley, would give Wagner everything he asks for in the stage directions - settings, superlatives and all. ("Even a bear?" I asked Sir Peter incredulously when I heard of this rash promise. "Even a bear", he replied with hardly a tremor in his voice. And there it is, in Act I of *Siegfried*, large, brown and furry, and plainly longing to growl.) Now a naturalistic Ring has been long overdue; I have not seen the door of Hundung's parlour fly open to admit the moonlight since the late 1940s, and I doubt if Fricka's chariot has been drawn by rams since Wagner died. Well, in this Ring the door flies open and the moonlight floods the stage as it floods the orchestra, and when Fricka arrives in the next Act she arrives, as Wagner specifies, in a chariot drawn by rams, and very handsome black rams they are, too.

That is by no means all. The forest scenes are beautifully set and staged, their trees like the real trees I see on my way in to Bayreuth on board Herr Pflaum's festival bus, and the sunlight, falling through their branches, perfectly convincing, as are most of the interiors - Mime's smithy, for instance, and Nibelheim, where Alberich himself built himself a golden throne. There is a real rope for the Norns, too, real water for the Rhinemaidens (stark naked, incidentally, though one of them needs to take her bottom to the sunshine on some secluded beach, for at present it is disconcertingly paler than the rest of her) and a truly

savage dragon, looking like a cross between a Siberian mammoth and a science-fiction giant lobster. I swear that there are even real flames on the stage for the Immolation, in which case some of the Gibichungs milling around the pyre had better be firemen in disguise.

Nor is it just a matter of authentic props and scene-painting; the movement, especially for the Rhinemaidens and the Vassals, is as good as anything I have ever seen on an operatic stage, and the great set-pieces - notably the Entry into Valhalla and the Funeral March - are replete with imagination and integrity, as indeed are many of the details, such as the dinosaur into which Alberich turns himself in the first transformation instead of the usual snake or dragon (inevitably upstaged later by the real dragon) and the murder of Fasolt by his brother, accomplished not with a club but with a chunk of the fatal gold. The acting, it is true, is mostly no more than a sketch so far, and in some cases hardly even that, but the obvious intentions behind the sketch offer hope for a finished picture next year or the year after.

There are mistakes, of course, worst of them being Hall's decision to use a gauge, which fizzes everything, particularly that which should not be fussed. Then again, the Valkyries' collection of the bodies from the battlefield is a mess, and the Gibichung Hall, until the final scene, is horribly cramped, besides being carpeted, apparently, in bird-droppings.

Yet a Ring cannot be made out of authenticity alone. Peter Hall's success lies in the way he has enabled us, by his fidelity to the wishes of a composer with a well-deserved reputation for knowing his own mind, to see both the drama and its meanings plain. Away with the "interpretations" we have had these last years, mostly by salon-Marxists who have never read more than two paragraphs of Marx and understood neither of those. Away with the incessant hunger to *épater les bourgeois*, to draw parallels that are not parallel and conclusions that conclude nothing. Away with everything that blocks our path into the heart of Wagner's mystery with signposts that claim to be directing us there.

Wagner's great tale of will and power, of love, renunciation and redemption, of sacrifice and self-sacrifice, will speak clearly enough to an audience when the director has the courage - as Hall has had - to let it do so, to seek the truth in the relationships, in the characters and their natures, in the symbolism, in the struggle of strength that cannot be waged through force ("Nicht durch Gewalt"), in the Shakespearean understanding of the human heart that runs right through this most heroic of dramas. (No director who does not comprehend Shakespeare can succeed in the Ring, and Hall is one of our finest Shakespearean directors.) The clue lies in the pattern of the *feiertage*; these will always guide us to the meanings, great and small, and it is a measure of Hall's success that I cannot remember having seen or heard a Ring in which they made Wagner's points, with all their complexity and many-sidedness, in a manner at once so urgent, so clear and so illuminating.

(To be concluded tomorrow.)

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Roger Scruton

Foxtrotsky and a Minuet Tendency

Holidays, like birthdays, weddings and temporary farewells, are points of transition and renewal. Hence they are occasions for dancing. Every summer people gather in Mediterranean resorts and, to the sound of violin, guitar, bouzouki or electric organ, begin to shuffle off their coils.

Timorous at first, they steadily gain inspiration, and step out with unpractised movements and a kind of stumbling courtesy. By a miracle of pre-established harmony they begin to move to a common pulse, and gradually their faces suffuse with smiles.

So it is, at least, in the south, where the habit of social dancing, which needs no special technique, which extends equally to the very old and the very young, which permits man to dance with man, woman with woman and child with child - has not yet disappeared.

In the north, however, dancing has virtually ceased to exist as a social occasion. What passes for dancing is in fact a lonely parody of the sexual act, a formless vibrating of the body, accompanied by vacant expressions and wild movements of the hands and arms. The participants do not touch but stand isolated in the solitude of their feelings, jerked by the music like puppets on a string. The dance relies for its excitement upon a constant heightening of the tension in this string, as lights flash and noises throb in a ghastly parody, also, of battle.

The distance between a bop and a minuet reflects the immense distance between cultures. In the first each dancer is free to stimulate himself in his preferred way, without reference to his nominal partner. Such a dance lends itself perfectly to the temper of a society that fears accomplishments, and which believes that each person has an equal right to consideration, regardless of his social competence or personal charm.

The minuet, by contrast, is exclusive and disciplined. It is also social: each dancer must obey the formation, and from time to time change partners so as to dance with someone whom he did not choose. He must confine his seductive gestures to those little nuances which are all the more pleasurable for their resemblance to the innocent smiles and touches of the dance. The excitement lies in the coordinated movement, in which a shared skill provides the foundation for a common pleasure. Hence the minuet is a truly liberating dance, containing a vast store of social opportunity, freed from the imperatives of sexual desire.

To bop with someone to whom you are not attracted is a desultory experience, since the meaning of the act has been removed. It is scarcely surprising that the practice of seeking different partners to dance has disappeared, and dancing itself become confined to the sexually eligible. The revival of Scottish

country dancing did little to arrest the decline, and when finally the Viennese waltzes and polkas had dashed the legitimate expectations of the ugly and the aged, it was firmly established that dancing is an affair for the young couple alone. The history of modern dancing is the result of two forms which, a society of isolated couples, cannot resist: the fear of competence, which necessitates the discovery of dances which have no recognizable steps, and the fear of social affection, which requires that bodies set in motion by music should not be touched but merely displayed.

Perhaps, you may say. But why go on filling space that might have been devoted to the burning questions of politics? The answer is simple: if you do not understand dancing, then you will never understand politics. Dancing is the paradigm of political fulfillment. People who step together in a dance are at one with themselves and their fellows. Their action is also response, and they move in a collective movement, with no purpose beyond the present pleasure. The usefulness of dance is precisely why we value it. The person who joins the dance extinguishes purpose, and is content, for the moment, to be. The meaning of the dance is the dance itself.

Dancing therefore reminds us of the fundamental truth of our condition. The purpose of life is life itself. This is the truth that Kants perceived in the figures of the Greek gods, and which he summarized in such paradoxical words: "It was also perceived by those who devised the old social dances. They saw that the revelation of the sublime purposelessness of human existence must be carefully prepared, that it must be given a full and generous social context, freed from the tyranny of sexual excitement, and decked out in the costumes of peace. The dance then becomes a symbol of all that matters in our political condition."

True politics maintains a social order in its own self-made equilibrium: it eschews those "final solutions" and "irreversible shifts" with which fascists and socialists threaten all that is merely actual; it renounces the desire to establish the kingdom of heaven, and interferes in the rhythm of ordinary life only so as to reach the steps of the dance.

These steps must be complex and varied, so as to break down the aggressive isolation of the sexual bond, and to generate a public life that is something more than a congeries of private intimacies. The highest forms of politics exhibit the order and beauty of the minuet; the lowest forms resemble the disorderly solipsism of the bop. But even in its lowest form politics is to be preferred to that other thing which is not politics but war - the reckless pursuit of purpose by those in the grip of an idea. Armed with that thought, I shall turn next week to the major problem of international politics.

Michael Clayton

Hunting down the elusive facts

The anti-hunters have started their season early this year, with a new note in the baying of the unattractive little pack run by the League Against Cruel Sports.

The league's latest shrill propaganda line is that organized hunting in Britain cannot be trusted to stick to its own rules. As first reported in *The Times*, the league has revealed that it employs a leading hunt saboteur as a double agent to spy on hunts.

"Infiltrating" a hunt is about as difficult as infiltrating a soccer Cup Final crowd. Hunting is open to inspection by and bona fide representative of press or broadcasting. The most important messages hunting would like to convey to the general public are:

- The sport has its own strict rules.
- The ruling bodies are prepared to investigate serious allegations of rule-breaking.
- Disciplinary action and sanctions can be taken against a master of hounds proved to have broken the rules.
- Organized hunting is demonstrably the most humane and effective method of necessary control of red deer on Exmoor, forest, in rural areas, hares and wild mink.

Hunting's conservationist role in preserving habitats such as fox coverts, its encouragement of hedgerows and its beneficial effect on social life in the country are not easily understood by many in the urban majority.

At a time when the technical means of communication have become so sophisticated there is a chasm of misunderstanding between the man who takes his under-cashed, over-fed dog to defecate in the park, and the man who regularly takes his fit, working dog to hunt a wild animal in its own environment.

To seek deliberately to widen the gap of understanding between the huge urban majority and the genuine rural minority can do nothing but harm. This is one of the most mischievous by-products of the line of attack so frequently adopted by the full-time propagandists who have now taken over the anti-hunting lobby.

Their use of the emotional loud pedal has been all too successful in producing legacy income to pay for their advertising campaigns - and to employ a hunt saboteur. How much better for wild life if the money from those who want to help animals were spent on such priorities as boosting the campaign to discourage the illegal importation of animals which can so easily spread rabies.

The league, however, is stomping Fleet Street to hawk "spy" pictures for the highest possible price, and promising more "shock horror revelations". Anyone with evidence that a hunt has broken the rules can present it to the sport's ruling bodies or seek legal redress. It is, for example, a criminal act to restrain a wild animal in a bag, then release it for hounds to hunt.

Under the long-established system of organized hunting, Britain has the largest fox population in Europe; the red deer herds on Exmoor flourish under selective culling by the hunts, with close seasons observed, and hares and mink abound in the countryside.

The alternative would be anarchy: control would be impossible for anyone to monitor - certainly not by "undercover agents". Poaching of red deer on Exmoor is greatly discouraged by the existence of organized hunts, but when poaching does occur it produces deer horrendously wounded by shotguns, leading to slow, painful death.

There is more than a hint of desperation in the present anti-hunting propaganda tactics because of the strong position of organized hunting. More people are hunting, and applying to take it up, than ever. More than 200,000 people hunt regularly in Britain, and throughout a year, about a million follow hounds. The recent Coddham Resource Consultants' survey of field sports showed an annual direct investment of £102m in hunting.

Many Britons clearly enjoy watching a well-bred pack of hounds tackling the difficult task of hunting a wild animal. Huntmen's abilities are discussed in rural circles with the enthusiasm accorded in cities to soccer players.

Disapproval of hunting by some is inevitable, and individuals' conscience about the taking of life must be respected. Militant emotional propaganda seeking to destroy organized hunting without producing other realistic forms of control and wild life conservation is another matter in a Britain which kills millions of animals each week and shows no national interest in adopting the extreme moral position of the vegetarian who will not wear animal skins.

Hunting has every reason to keep its house in good order. No one will ever love the land and its wild life more than he who has had the privilege of experiencing the hunting field throughout the season.

The author is editor of *Horse and Hound*.

Edward Schumacher on Chile's growing impatience with military rule

After the riots, Pinochet in the firing line

Santiago As September 11 and the tenth anniversary of Chile's military coup approaches, the junta appears to be bowing to popular pressure for a faster move towards democracy than so far promised. Twenty-four people died in riots during the latest monthly protests, but they prompted a government reshuffle.

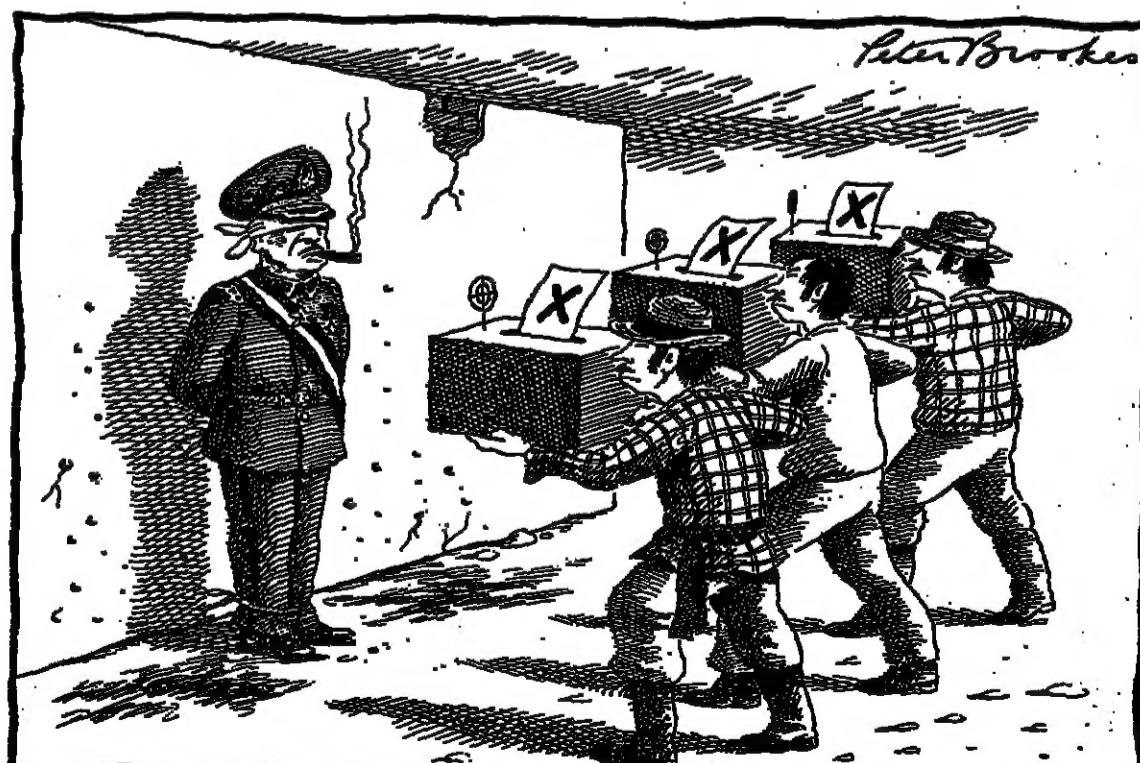
Among moves by President Pinochet was the appointment of Sergio Onofre Jarpa to the key Interior Ministry. Jarpa was not long in office before he was saying that the government would call a plebiscite on amending the constitution to speed up the congressional elections now scheduled for 1990.

He did not say when the plebiscite or the elections might be held. But the statement, published last week-end, marked the first time a senior official has said that the government was open to amending the constitution, which was adopted in a plebiscite three years ago.

The constitution specifies that General Augusto Pinochet hold office until at least 1989 and that a congress be elected in 1990. Pinochet has repeatedly said he would not change the constitution or the timetable for elections.

In *El Mercurio*, Chile's conservative and influential daily, Jarpa said: "I cannot say when, but we are going to have an elected congress before 1990." The Interior Minister said he had no doubt that an earlier election date would be approved in the plebiscite.

The latest demonstrations appeared to have died out by Saturday night. The protests have been called monthly for the past four months by opposition parties and unions. The



Democratic Alliance, a coalition of five centrist parties headed by the Christian Democrats, has said it will call a protest again next month, when Pinochet will celebrate the anniversary of his coup against Salvador Allende.

There was no immediate response from opposition leaders to Jarpa's remarks. It seemed unlikely, however, that they would be appeased. The Alliance a week ago demanded Pinochet's immediate resignation, formation of a provisional government and convening of a constituent assembly to draw a new constitution for submission at elections in 18 months.

The Alliance claims that the 1980 constitution, though approved by nearly two-thirds of the voters, was unfairly presented. The government restricted opposition campaigning and no alternative was presented. The country was then in the midst of an economic boom. Now, it has been in recession for two years. Public opinion has turned strongly against Pinochet.

The Interior Minister's promises went beyond a political plan announced a week ago by Pinochet, who said the Council of State, a consultative body, would study only proposed laws such as reactivating banned political parties. Jarpa implied in the interview that he was speaking with the support of the General when he said that Pinochet had charged him to carry out the political initiative.

Jarpa was appointed Interior Minister last Wednesday. A former conservative senator and founder of the right-wing National Party, he was ambassador to Argentina for almost eight years before taking the post.

Before taking the post, Jarpa demanded that Pinochet begin making transition steps to democracy, including early congressional elections, sources close to him said. The sources said they did not know what conditions, if any, were finally agreed to. But, they said, Jarpa supports Pinochet's remaining as president until 1989.

Jarpa's strategy, the sources say, is not to satisfy the opposition but to broaden the government's political base by attracting back conservatives who have abandoned Pinochet because of his refusal to begin, at the least, transitional steps to democracy. *El Mercurio* is among those calling for such steps.

Jarpa said opposition leaders would be invited to participate in the Council of State deliberations on the new political laws, but declined to specify how.

Gabriel Valdes, leader of the Christian Democrats, said in an interview on Friday that Alliance leaders would not even talk to the government unless their parties were recognized and the talks were public. He said Jarpa closed the doors to talks when he suggested last week that many of the Alliance leaders were political exhibitionists.

Moreover, Valdes said, the protest movement has grown so large that the government's political openings were too late to be effective.

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ARMS AND MONEY

Soon after the Conservatives came to power in 1979 they cut £250 million from the forward projections in defence spending inherited from Labour - Mr Fynn protesting. Mr John Nott then came in to apply these cuts in a way which aggravated their effect on service planning - and in particular on the Navy - by withholding a large part of the projected spending plan as a central reserve from which he hoped to meet particular difficulties caused by the application of cash limits.

Then came the Falklands. That operation was paid for out of the Government's contingency reserve. The bill for replacements, which Mr Nott managed skilfully to win through in Cabinet, overrode Treasury misgivings. The Treasury also had to concede some year-to-year control on defence spending when it agreed, under the terms of Sir Frank Cooper the last Permanent Secretary, that any Defence Ministry underspend could be rolled forward up to a maximum annual figure of £300 million.

It seemed that when Mr Heseltine took over in January the Defence Ministry could hope for a more settled future. That that is not to be the case became clear enough from the arbitrary and undebated manner in which the new Chancellor announced a £250 million cut in this year's estimates the day after Mr Heseltine, in all innocence, had introduced those estimates in his White Paper without even mentioning the cut.

In political terms, Mr Lawson is correct to assume that he would be unwise to leave the defence budget unscathed when it is clear that the public spending crisis will involve radical measures with, for instance, the possible de-indexation of unemployment pay and future thinking about the funding of public welfare. It is right that defence should take its place in the public spending queue; it is wrong that it should be done at a speed and in a way which

merely chips away at our defences, both in the British context and within Nato, by preserving the basic structure while allowing the distortions within it to be even more inappropriate the smaller that structure becomes.

The question at issue is a commitment in Nato to increase the defence budget by 3 per cent per annum. That explicit obligation expires in 1985-86, but Nato ministers have resolved to try to extend it beyond. The Treasury argument is that Britain has more honourably discharged this commitment than many of her allies, and that anyway she pays more per head for defence than they do.

It is not easy to cut the defence budget in a hurry. The first item which will inevitably be put in the lists is the Trident nuclear missile system. However, that is so fundamental to the Government's whole notion of deterrence that it seems an unlikely source of economy. It would be unwise to start fiddling about with Trident. The Trident system is one of the few strategic elements in a defence structure which is very vulnerable to the sudden whim of accountancy, as the Navy learnt to its cost under Mr Nott. It is a 40-year system. The original estimates of its cost have already been reduced now that it has been put in the Navy vote and its costs are responding to the benefits of long-term planning. Indeed the nuclear submarine is one of the few major items of equipment which today costs less in real terms than it used to, solely on account of long production runs and a stable commitment to building up the fleet.

With Trident in the budget, it is argued that there are only two serious options left, both of them unacceptable. The first would be to continue to slice away at the existing defence structure, cutting back on equipment, delaying production runs, drawing down ammunition stocks. The effect of that would be to preserve a shop window, but

little behind it. The other would be to embrace a Gaullist-style defensive position, withdrawing our troops from the Continental line up, and preserving only a notional commitment to deploy them automatically on behalf of the Alliance. The full consequences of such a withdrawal would be incalculable within Nato, but would almost certainly lead to its ultimate collapse.

In fact there is a third way, but not in the time available to Mr Heseltine, if Mr Lawson's demands have to be met with decisions by November. The Chiefs of Staff have already carried out a review of Britain's likely military role out of the Nato area. The conclusions of a further review into the whole range of our commitments to the Nato alliance, and possible changes in Alliance strategy which would permit alterations in the size and nature of our contributions, will not be ready until the spring.

It is already clear in outline that financial pressures could be a useful catalyst for a much more radical approach to Nato strategy than any governments have hitherto permitted themselves. The Alliance line-up in Central Europe makes military nonsense. It is a tangled web of old political formulae summed up only too shrewdly by the witicism that Nato is intended to keep Americans in, Russians out and Germans down.

The principles on which Britain could base a policy of fundamental reform in Nato's strategy and defence administration will be explored in more detail tomorrow. As with its task in every field of domestic spending, this Government now has an opportunity to apply radical thinking to rigidities which have inhibited policy making for a generation. It may be more difficult to effect change in the diplomatic and military field than in social policy. But if this Government fails to take up the opportunity, no future British Government, and certainly no fellow member of Nato, will do so.

EATING PEOPLE IS WRONG

Chad does not exist, according to M. Pierre Messmer, a former French prime minister. We all know what he means. Chad has no "natural" identity, unity, or frontiers. Whoever undertakes to govern or defend it is condemning himself to failure and frustration.

France learned this some time ago, having kept troops there for twenty years after independence in a vain attempt to hold the country together. The end result of those efforts was a "government of national unity" whose ministers continued fighting each other in the streets of the capital. Understandably President Giscard d'Estaing decided to pull his men out.

The fighting went on until Colonel Gaddafi sent Libyan troops in to stop it by intervening on the side of the then president, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, against the then defence minister, Mr Hissène Habré. The citizens of the capital, Ndjameña, do not seem to have been particularly grateful for this. They feared it was the beginning of a period of Libyan rule, and the Libyans showed few signs of being enlightened or even competent colonial administrators.

Between Mr Habré and Mr Goukouni the inhabitants of Ndjameña probably saw little to choose at first. Both were tribal guerrilla leaders, nomadic Muslims from the northern desert, whereas the majority in Ndjameña are blacks, mainly Christian or animist, from the

cultivated savannah of the south. Perhaps initially Mr Goukouni had the edge because of his alliance with Vice-President Kamougue - a Muslim, but from the south. If so, he lost it once he began to appear as a Libyan puppet. Sensitive to this charge, after a year he himself asked for the withdrawal of Libyan troops. A force was put together by the Organization of African Unity to replace them, but it was not willing to fight for Mr Goukouni when Mr Habré's forces advanced from the Sudanese border in 1982.

Mr Habré benefited at that stage from weapons and supplies provided by Sudan - that is, indirectly at least by Egypt and the United States. But as far as is known his little army was composed entirely of citizens of Chad. The war was still essentially a civil war, and Mr Habré won a convincing victory. That makes him as legitimate a president as Chad has had in recent years, or is likely to have in the next few. Mr Goukouni, despite all the advantages which may be supposed to accrue to an incumbent ruler, lost.

Mr Goukouni is presumably entitled, under the rules of this game which looks so futile to the spectator but is apparently enjoyed by the players, to attempt to turn the tables on Mr Habré using the same methods. What is more questionable is whether Colonel Gaddafi is entitled to help him do so by sending Libyan aircraft to carry out intensive bombing of targets

on Chadian territory, not sparing the civilian population and, in the past fortnight or so, to follow this up with a massive intervention on the ground by his own army.

In so doing Colonel Gaddafi has changed the nature of the game - as President Mitterrand has implicitly recognized by sending French troops back to Chad, even if nominally as "instructors", for the first time since 1980. Mitterrand's Government has a healthy distaste for intervention in the internal affairs of African countries. But this is no longer a mere internal affair. Chad has been invaded by Libya, and - according to the rules of the international community, codified in the UN Charter - is entitled to expect help.

So Chad does exist after all - or if it does not, Colonel Gaddafi has somehow overlooked the fact. Why he should choose to invest such large military resources in an enterprise that has defeated so many others - and which, indeed, cost Libya itself dear only two years ago - is somewhat baffling. Presumably he hoped that the weakness and indecision of his opponents, in Africa and beyond, would allow him an easy victory which would tip the evenly balanced scale of African geopolitics in favour of his confused revolutionary designs. It would be better if Africans could prove him wrong on their own. But it is right that their European friends should be ready to help.

ONE WAY TICKET

Defections from the Soviet bloc are so common that only a request for political asylum with an interesting new twist is likely to make headlines. There is something both ridiculous and sinister about reports from Washington of secret agents surrounding the Soviet Embassy or approaching a teenage boy at the airport to inquire if he wanted to defect.

Normally any foreign interference in matters concerning parental authority must be deplored. If KGB agents had approached Miss Samantha Smith while she was touring the USSR at the invitation of President Andropov and suggested that she defect to the cradle of socialism rather than return to the last bulwark of capitalism, many US citizens would have objected strongly - especially if her parents opposed the idea.

However if force is needed to compel a child to return home the issue becomes more complex. Age is the major factor: at sixteen, issues of individual rights and responsibilities come

to the fore, making any decision an unsatisfactory moral compromise. In 1980 Walter Polowchak, aged 12, was granted political asylum to remain with foster parents in the United States against the declared wishes of his Ukrainian parents. They returned to the Soviet Union but continued to fight through the courts for a reversal of the decision. Moscow raised a diplomatic scandal over the "provocative act" of the United States authorities. The parents' case was weakened by the knowledge that Walter's life in the Soviet Union would have been wretched had he been forcibly returned after defecting. Adults who return in such circumstances are sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for "betraying the homeland".

The flow of defectors is one-way, in the West it is not normal to use the term "defector" for someone who decides to emigrate. Dozens of British citizens have worked in the Soviet Union for long periods - some translating propaganda materials hostile

to their country's government - but this does not lose them the right to return to Britain. No exit visa is required to leave Western democracies, but in violation of international agreements communist countries more often than not refuse permission to emigrate. Those granted exit visas cannot expect to return should life abroad prove a disappointment or even should they wish to come back on holiday.

The Kremlin considers defectors to be double traitors, having betrayed world socialism and their homeland. But whether for material reasons or to gain individual freedoms people continue to escape despite barbed wire, minefields, guard dogs and border troops. Seizing their opportunity during official trips abroad come soldiers, sailors, spies, musicians, mathematicians and most other professions from dancers to diplomats. One must remember that the Berlin wall, in all its spiteful horror, is maintained to keep people in.

Case for traditional medicine - and the alternatives

From the President of the Royal College of Physicians

Sir, May I be permitted to make a few points in reply to your leader of August 10?

First, doctors make decisions about "access to health care". In our daily routine we regularly have to decide who to treat and how to treat; this is an integral part of our work. We are equipped to make these decisions through a long period of medical training and experience and we take into account such factors as the state of knowledge and understanding of a disease and its progress without treatment, our assessment of the patient's physical and mental condition, our awareness of the likely success of treatment, and of side-effects.

Training in the management of health resources would not equip us better to deal with these problems, but might introduce an economic factor that would further restrict the options open to us. Bearing in mind the important medical factors applying to each patient, could anyone other than a doctor make this choice?

Many doctors deplore the "exponential curve in the consumption of prescribed drugs". Farly this results from the public's expectation of treatment even for trivial complaints such as a cold; many patients regard themselves as inadequately treated unless they are given pills or medicines. Doctors should not take all the blame for society's obsession with pill-taking to cope with the ordinary stresses of life.

No-one who has studied the matter dispassionately would deny the tremendous contribution drug therapy has made (antibiotics, hormones, the control of Parkinsonism, etc.). We are now left with a residue of diseases that remain hard to treat, but a policy of therapeutic nihilism would inhibit the exploratory use of drugs that has led recently to life-saving advances in the management of leukaemia and allied conditions and some forms of cancer.

Basic to all new treatment is the profession's acceptance of clinical trials. These are devised to test very strictly the ability of a new drug beneficially to influence the outcome of disease. The most common conclusion of such clinical trials is not that a new treatment should be adopted, but that it should be rejected. Many drugs "have to be taken off the market" because they have been found wanting. The profession, indeed the public, has the right to expect the same approach to alternative forms of medicine.

If alternative systems of treatment proved efficacious and not harmful,

the medical profession would not be reluctant to accept them.

It is time to dispel the myth that doctors are "dazzled" by contemporary medicine and regard human beings as "groups of units". Medical schools have tried hard to balance the impressive advance of science by increased teaching of the human approach.

Good doctors - and I believe the overwhelming majority of doctors to be good - treat their patients as human beings and are aware of the importance of personal and emotional factors. Any denial of this would suggest that doctors are less than human in their reaction to personal suffering.

Finally, it is not difficult to understand why patients with cancer seek alternative forms of treatment. The inevitability of a fatal illness is hard to accept. Doctors in general handle dying patients with great sympathy and understanding. To ease the pain of this difficult terminal period, the profession has welcomed the establishment of hospices for the dying.

There is the world of difference between the provision of institutions that provide this sort of help and unsustained claims that alternative forms of treatment can cure cancer.

I, for one, would welcome the unequivocal demonstration that a malignant tumour has been cured by any form of alternative medicine. Until this proof is available, such claims will not be taken seriously by the profession and should be disregarded by the public.

I apologise for writing at such length. The policies you advocate could lead to major and, I believe, damaging changes in the provision of health-care and warrant an even fuller rebuttal than this letter can hope to achieve.

Yours faithfully,

RAYMOND HOFFENBERG,

President,

Royal College of Physicians,

11 St Andrews Place,

Regent's Park, NW1,

August 12.

From Dr Malcolm Carruthers

Sir, As founder member of the

British Holistic Medical Association

I must congratulate your paper on

the signal service it has done this

vital bridging operation between

orthodox and alternative medicine.

One area not apparently covered

however is the practical politics of

putting these splendid ideas into

practice. Financial resources for this

are unlikely to be available from the

overstretched and generally unrec-

ogitive NHS, and even when

applied by highly trained orthodox

doctors, such treatment is seldom

covered by private insurance

schemes.

Unfortunately, in this country, good medicine is not yet recognized as potentially good business, and as such a growth industry worthy of private investment, as it is in the USA (*New York Times*, July 11, 1983).

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM CARRUTHERS,
Medical Director,
Positive Health Centre,
15 Fitzroy Square, W1,
August 9.

From Dr A. R. Rogers

Sir, It was the nationalisation of

orthodox medicine in 1948 which

produced some of the far reaching

changes now observed in your recent

series on alternative and holistic

medicine.

Once limited by state control,

medical enterprise has not been free

to respond to patient demand and

has been fettered by government

finance. Little wonder then that

alternative medicine has flourished.

The job security given to NHS

doctors has lessened the bond

between the patient and the

practitioner and has also resulted in

little objection when patients seek

therapy from alternative sources.

This is why general practitioners and

osteopaths and chiropractors appear

to work more closely.

Since alternative medicine

flourishes in the market place none

can deny it has a value. However, if

general medicine were to be freed of

its state constraints it would

eventually overrun its competitors

entirely on pure grounds of merit.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROGERS,
1 Victoria Park Road,
St Leonards,
Devon,
August 10.

From Dr P. M. J. O'Brien

Sir, The recent articles by Ruth West

and Brian Inglis (August 8, 9, 10)

followed by your report (August 11)

of a "striking degree of interest in

alternative methods of treatment

among younger doctors", suggests

that someone on the *Times* staff is

taking too much ying with his yang

and thinks he is writing for the

alternative society who might

normally expect to find such articles

in another paper, such as the

Guardian.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. J. O'BRIEN,
Carlyngate,
Burley Road,
Macclesfield,
West Yorkshire,
August 11.

From Mr Alan Watson

Sir, As the Liberal-Alliance candi-

date in what is now the most

marginal seat in the South of

England I have no doubt that future

Alliance success depends on our

ability to persuade voters that we are

fit for government and as relevant to

Britain's needs today as Labour was

in 1945. We will not replace Labour

Dumping of waste in N Atlantic

From Mr David McGarratt

Sir, Dr Roberts of the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (August 10) cannot continue to praise and defend a position adopted by this Government on radioactive waste dumping when other countries have abandoned the practice, when the London Dumping Convention itself requests contracting parties to view this method of disposal as the least desirable and when 19 nations, representing millions of people throughout the world, voted in favour of a suspension of the practice at the February meeting of that body.

The lone voice of the UK pleading its innocence and injury is beginning to wear thin and to grate on the patience of other nations. Perhaps Dr Roberts needs reminding that the five Nordic nations have made it clear that the UK's position is not respected and that all that is asked of this country is that it abides by a democratically arrived-at decision.

The "careful international assessment" Dr Roberts refers to is full of assumptions and projections rather than hard facts and admits gaping holes in even the most contemporary of scientific information. It attacks the mode upon which dumping has been based for decades.

In the light of this and other information, not the least of which was the overwhelming vote in favour of a two-year suspension of dumping called for by the LDC, the National Union of Seamen, together with the TCWU and Aslef, have demonstrated more sensitivity to international public opinion than this Government has any intention of doing and they must be praised for adopting a stance which has had financial disincentives for some of their members.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MCGARRATT, Chairman,
Greenpeace International,
25 High Street,
Lewes, Sussex.

From the Director-General of the General Council of British Shipping

Sir, Dr Roberts (August 10) has explained authoritatively that there is no danger to sea or human life in dumping low-level radioactive waste in the Atlantic deeps in the manner employed by the Atomic Energy Authority.

All that the action of the National Union of Seamen, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Association of Steam Locomotive Engineers and Firemen is achieving in "blackening" the specially converted ship concerned is loss of jobs and business for British seamen - both officers, who are still on board, and ratings - and dockers and railwaymen.

And this at a time when there is high unemployment among UK seafarers and a fifth of our merchant fleet laid up. The vessel may now have to be sold abroad where it will be manned by officers and ratings of another country who will proceed to pick up the contracts for the disposal of this type of low-level waste from other ports.

The unions are unwilling even to discuss the matter with the Authority and the shipowners. Could they not reconsider that refusal in the light of Dr Roberts's letter?

Yours faithfully,
W. P. SHOVELTON,
Director-General,
General Council of British Shipping,
30-32 St Mary Axe, EC3.

From Mr E. W. J. Palamoutain

Sir, Mr Brophy's letter (August 5)

suggests at least one point of general

interest and substance.

The reason why the total of charitable donations by companies has risen from the low level of the previous year are likely to remain obscure, although the redoubled efforts of charities which have lost public support is probably one of them. However, that may be. It would be not merely unrealistic but wrong for charitable bodies to expect much higher levels of support from corporate donors.

The overriding obligation of any board of directors is to look after the interests of its shareholders, who have every right to require that any significant proportion of revenue allocated to charitable causes should be justified by reference to its anticipated effect on profitability. Many donations would satisfy this criterion, but no by means all.

The problem of the "non-qualifying" or marginal donations is considerably eased if the company (with the full approval of its shareholders) establishes a charitable trust - funded, let us say, out of the (gross) profits made in good years. Such action has, of course, been taken by a number of well-known companies and one may hope that in a period of recovery their example might be followed by many others.

Yours faithfully,
EDGAR PALAMOUNTAIN,
Chairman,
Wider Share Ownership Council,
Juxon House,
94 St Paul's Churchyard, EC4.

From Mr Andrew Robertson

Sir, Mr Kilpatrick (August 6) regrets

the replacement of sailors by

crewmen, but of all the changes in

terminology surely the most regret-

table, not to say sinister, are those in

sports reporting.

Teams have become squads (squad spirit?), strokes are now

shots; centre forwards are strikers; and, worst of all, tie breaks are now

sudden death play-offs. And we wonder at football hooliganism!

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROBERTSON,
11 Abercorn Close,
St John's Wood, NW8,
August 6.

Facts come first

From the Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford

Sir, Your leading article, "Facts come first" (August 9), should be warmly welcomed by all who believe that there is an essential need, especially at present, for "rational discourse" about major issues of social policy - outside the political debate across the parliamentary floor.

The process of Ministerial agreement on "a set of clear objectives", the commissioning of research leading to "the preparation of options", and full consultation before decisions are taken, should be

Salmon in danger

From Major-General D. G. Moore

Sir, As a former Chairman of the

North-west Angling Federation of

Ireland for more than a dozen years,

I would be glad to give the fullest

support to Sir George Kennard's

plea (August 2) for action to reduce

the scale of netting of Atlantic

salmon. I would only differ from Sir

George on a question of emphasis,

for I believe that grise, which

constitute the majority of migratory

fish and provide most of the sport in

many of our rivers, are even more

vulnerable to the menace of over-

netting than are so called "full"

salmon.

It is worth noting that the Foyle

waters, which have been in their day

the most prolific Atlantic salmon

system in the world, classified 98 per

Investment and Finance

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 732.8 up 10.7
FT 100: 79.89 up 0.79
FT All Share: 455.88 down 0.65

London 25,005
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 101.94 up 1.12
New York: Dow Jones
Average latest: 1,198.68 up 15.88
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 9,020.3 up 99.48
Hong Kong: Hang Sang
Index: 1,047.24 up 9.78
Amsterdam: 151.7 down 1.6
Sydney: AO Index: 673.4 up 11.7

Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index: 953.3 up 8.9
Brussels: General Index
market closed
Paris: CAC Index: market closed
Zurich: SKA General: 294.7 up 0.7

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4925 up 90pts
Index 85.1 unchanged
DM 4.05 up 0.0425
FF 12.1725 down 0.0325
Yen 368.75 up 2.50

NEW YORK CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4945
EGU 20.56347
SDR 20.704076

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rate 9 1/2
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 1/2 - 9 3/4

Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 10 1/2 - 10 3/4
3 month DM 5.11/16 - 5.11/16
3 month FF 15 1/2 - 15 1/2

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 3 1/4
Treasury long bond 101.23/24 - 101 1/4

ECB Fixed Rate - Sterling
Average reference rate for interest period July 8 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce) am \$415.30 pm \$416
close \$417.75-\$418.50 up \$5.50

New York close: \$416.00
Kruggerand (per cent): \$450.50-\$452.00 (\$289-290)
Sovereigns (new): \$97.50-\$98.50 (\$65.50-66.25)
Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Evans of Leeds, Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds (noon)
Intasun Leisure Group, Howard Hotel, Temple Place, WC2 (11.30)

TODAY

Interim: Adams and Gibbon, Anglo-International Investment, Meta Bullen, Royal Insurance, Unilever (second quarter)

Finals: Cowan de Groot, Group Investors, Heelmat Holdings, Meat Trade Suppliers, Reestnor Group

Economic Statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (July)

Panel clears UBM scheme

The Takeover Panel, the body which looks after shareholders' interests, has decided that the share option granted by UBM to four directors does not infringe the takeover rules. The options were granted to the UBM directors just a few days before Norcross announced it was making a £70m bid for the builders' merchant group which caused the share price to rise to 120p. The options were granted at 81p. The panel is satisfied that the directors acted in good faith when they asked shareholders to give them powers to take options at the annual meeting and they could not have known a bid was coming.

● Dary McKee, the Sheffield-based heavy engineering firm, has won a £70m contract which will give a new lease of life to a hot-spot mill at the British Steel Corporation's Port Talbot plant in South Wales.

● An IMF team is returning to Venezuela for further talks on a requested \$1.1bn compensatory financing facility. Commercial banks, which held inconclusive talks with Venezuela on rescheduling \$13.4bn of debts last week, are insisting that Venezuela first agree to a programme with the IMF. Some bankers doubt that this will happen before presidential elections at the end of this year.

Australian mining group baffled by ACC chief's buyout plans

Holmes à Court launches surprise £2.5bn takeover bid for BHP

By Michael Prest
Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the entrepreneur from Western Australia, took the stock markets of the world by surprise yesterday when he made a bid worth A\$4.13bn (£2,444m) for the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Australia's biggest corporation.

There was immediate bafflement about Mr Holmes à Court's intentions, although his record in accumulating a large personal fortune in the past decade and his successful bid for Associated Communications Corporation, culminating in the overthrow of Lord Grade, have left market participants with the suspicion that the bid for BHP is serious.

It was announced in Perth just after the close of trading on the Melbourne Stock Exchange yesterday. Mr Holmes à Court is offering BHP's 178,000 shareholders two shares worth A\$6 each in an obscure Western Australian company called Wignores for every one of BHP's 340 million shares.

In London the BHP share price jumped by 32p to 644p, equivalent to A\$10.90. There are 20,000 British shareholders.

Amazement turned to bafflement in Australia when it was realized that Mr Holmes à Court only acquired control

of Wignores, which has the state franchise for Caterpillar earth moving equipment, on Friday. Wignores supplies equipment to Mr Holmes à Court's Bell Group, his master company, and its capitalization is one per cent of that of BHP.

But Mr Holmes à Court said that the bid for BHP, which would be one of the world's biggest takeovers if successful, was unconditional, and he would buy any number of BHP shares from one to all the equity.

Caught completely wrongfooted, BHP could only profess ignorance. Sir James McNeill, the company's chair-

man, said: "I have had no communication from Wignores and am at a loss to understand what their intentions may be."

While similarly ignorant, London analysts speculated that Mr Holmes à Court's aim was to drive up the BHP share, partly by making the bid, but also by eliciting a response from the management about the company's prospects.

These are widely believed to be recovering, after a poor patch.

The bid has already been dismissed by two of the biggest shareholders in BHP.

An entrepreneur who turns defeat into profit

By Vivien Goldsmith
Mr Robert Holmes à Court has the dangerous reputation of making his fortune by losing - bidding for a company, exciting rivals - into competition, and then somehow bowing out with a healthy profit.

He claims, however, that he has never set out on a takeover bid he was not prepared to carry through.

"But I also set a limit on what I believe a company's shares are worth and if someone wants to offer more than that, I am a seller," he says.

His unsuccessful bid in 1981 for Elder's, the Adelaide finance group, netted him £9m and in 1979 he was approaching the runway to take over Ansett, one of Australia's two internal airlines, when he sold out to Mr Rupert Murdoch for a tax-free

profit of £6m.

But the three-month fight to gain control of Associated Communications Corporation shows that Mr Holmes à Court can fight a long and bloody battle to get something on which he has set his heart.

Mr Holmes à Court is just 46, but he is already worth something more than £50m. The Holmes à Court family trace their family back to the English landed gentry of the nineteenth century and a line of Tory MPs.

The family moved to Rhodesia between the wars to farm and Robert was educated in South Africa. Then they moved to New Zealand where he studied first agriculture then law and started a two-man practice.

It was not until 1970 after he



Holmes à Court: a dangerous reputation

turned to Australia that he turned to commerce. He was acting for an insolvent textile company - Western Australian Worsted and Woollen Mills - and bought a 21 per cent stake in the company for £34,000, persuaded the state government to write-off its loans and turned it into a money-spinner.

Pioneering tradition of the biggest Australian

By Our Financial Staff
Mining is littered with Broken Hills, but there is only one 178,000 shareholders being Australian.

Mining is still important to the company. Its mineral and metal interests include iron ore, coal, manganese, aluminium, nickel and precious metals. In January, BHP offered US\$2,400m (£1,560m) for Australia's biggest coal producer, Utah International.

But the company is most controversial in Australia for its iron and steel interests. BHP has been and is the country's only steel producer, but has suffered heavily from foreign competition. For a while the steel division incurred large losses. Last week, however, the government agreed to protect

Lloyd's gives details of proposed by-laws

By Andrew Corns
Lloyd's of London yesterday announced details of its first important set of proposals for the introduction of an effective system of self-regulation.

Mr Ian Davidson, chief executive at Lloyd's, stressed yesterday that the proposed by-laws governing the disclosure of interest by insurance underwriters and the establishment of a register of members' interests can still be modified by the Lloyd's insurance community.

The ruling Council of Lloyd's has invited comments on the by-laws, which have been extensively circulated, before September 5. This will give the council time to consider amendments before October 31, when the new disclosure requirements are to become compulsory. The public register of underwriting agents' interests will come into operation next March 31.

The proposed by-law on disclosure is intended to make

US strength leads index to record

By Wayne Littot
Shares, government stocks and sterling bounded ahead yesterday. The FT Index of Britain's top 30 companies hit a record, gifts put on as much as £2 and sterling recovered early falls against the dollar and European currencies.

The information will be kept on registers maintained by underwriting agents and Lloyd's. Part one of the register will be open to the public, but it need not quantify the interests which are disclosed. The second part will be open to specified individuals approved by the Council of Lloyd's and will quantify the interests which are disclosed.

Mr Davidson also gave details of a proposed by-law to set up a register of all working and external members of Lloyd's to be updated annually. New rules to govern membership of Lloyd's will be introduced in accordance with the Lloyd's Act 1982.

Retail sales slip, but trend stays buoyant

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Derek Harris
The consumer boom may be levelling off although spending in the shops is still well above the level of a year ago.

Provisional retail sales figures for July, published yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry, show a drop in the index from 114.0 in June to 113.5 in July - the first monthly fall since April, 1982.

However, shop sales in the last three months were still 1.5 per cent higher than in the three previous months and 6 per cent up on the same period a year ago.

The Retail Consortium, trade association for most of Britain's retailers, was surprised that the July figures showed a decline over June because trade reports pointed to the volume of sales keeping up.

Taken with the poor June figures for industrial production announced last week, the fall in retail sales may add to speculation that economic recovery is starting to falter.

Charles Hill resignation

By Jonathan Clare
Mr William Douie resigned yesterday as deputy chairman of Charles Hill, the Bristol shipping-to-civil engineering company he joined only four months ago.

His resignation is the latest of a series of boardroom moves since Charles Hill's merger with Kennedy Smith, a merger which almost failed to take place anyway.

Mr Douie, brought in by Mr Alec Johnstone, the chairman, to help sort out Charles Hill after the merger, resigned on "a point of honour" after the rest

Shares push ahead in active trading

By Jonathan Clare
The board decided to put a subsidiary into receivership rather than close it.

The company says that the subsidiary, Jeffries Avonmouth, has escalating losses and a buyer cannot be found.

Mr Douie said yesterday: "I was not prepared to support the resolution unless it was demonstrated to my satisfaction that to take any other course of action would sink the whole group."

Disposals of other subsidiaries will leave Charles Hill as little more than a property owning shell.

IMF says key restriction lifted

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent
The Government gave British banks the all-clear to sign a \$1.5bn commercial bank loan for Argentina yesterday after the International Monetary Fund board confirmed that Argentina was complying with the terms of its loan programme.

The loan was due to be signed last Friday. But the Government made it clear to British banks that it would not approve it until there was firm evidence that Argentina was no longer financially discriminating against British companies.

The IMF had told Argentina that it had to end such discrimination by the end of last month as a condition for receiving further loans.

The favourable verdict from the IMF executive board has satisfied the British Government. The Treasury said that proceeding with the loan was a commercial decision for the banks.

The loan signing is due to

UK banks clear Argentine loan

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent
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STEINBERG
BRITISH CLOTHING MANUFACTURER
REPORTS RECORD PROFITS.

In the twelve months to 26th March 1983, the Group made pre-tax profits of £1.3 million from improved trading in both the Contract Manufacturing Group and the Branded Products Group.

The Contract Manufacturing Group supplies women's outerwear to Marks & Spencer p.l.c., and the Branded Products Group retails its products through the Alexon and Horrockses brands. During the year the Group ac-

quired a 75 per cent interest in Agentborder Limited which has contributed £340,000 to pre-tax profits in four months.

To sustain this improved performance and achieve further growth, the Board have approved a Rights Issue to raise £4.1 million. This will be used for funding major capital expenditure programmes to increase production efficiency and capacity, and to develop a chain of Alexon retail shops.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GROUP PROFITS
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS TO 26TH MARCH 1983

	1983 £000	1982 £000
TURNOVER	31,715	27,425
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	1,328	218
TAXATION	81	(142)
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	1,247	360
	606	294
MINORITY INTEREST	641	66
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	79	-
EARNINGS PER SHARE	562	66
DIVIDENDS PER ORDINARY SHARE	8.9p	2.7p
	1.00p	0.02p

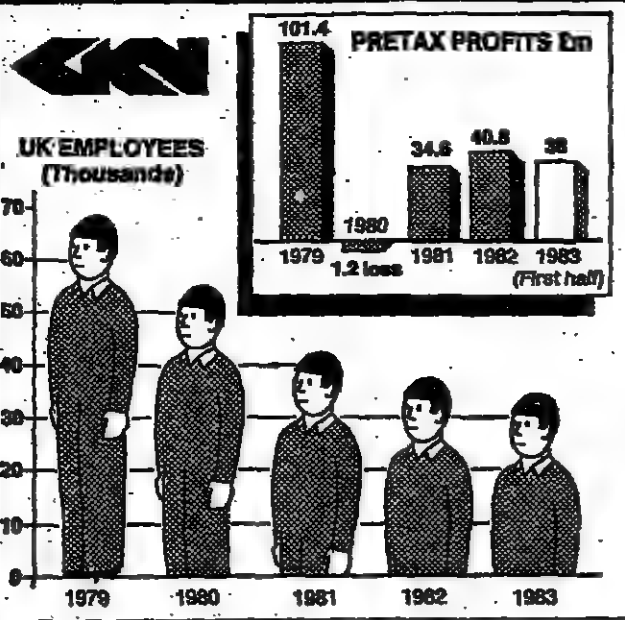
Copies of Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Steinberg Group, p.l.c., Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes, M11 3EE.

[illegible]

The engineers fight back: Andrew Cornelius with the first of a series

A slim, international GKN moves up with the car industry

EMPLOYMENT AND PROFITS AT GKN DURING THE RECESSION



Holdsworth: workforce has been halved, profits are improving.

Sir Trevor Holdsworth believes he took over as chairman of GKN, Kvaerner & Nottelmann, Britain's largest engineering company, on the day the British recession began. He remembers it vividly.

On January 1, 1980, the new Conservative Government was firmly entrenched and its economic policies were starting to bite. A crippling four-month national steel strike was also about to begin, with its clear repercussions for a company which was the British Steel Corporation's biggest customer, and also its main British competitor.

Sir Trevor says: "The evidence was not really very clear at the time."

"We were fighting the steel strike at first but we thought that a more general recession was underlying the fall in demand."

These early instincts were to be proved right to an extent that Sir Trevor could not have anticipated. During his first full year as chairman, the group plunged into loss, after making pretax profits of £126m in 1979. The speedy rationalization of the once mighty GKN group since 1980 has halved its size.

The group employs fewer than 35,000 people in Britain today, compared with 70,000 at the end of 1979. The fact that GKN still claims to be the country's largest engineering company is a measure of the extent to which the engineering industry has been ravaged.

Sir Trevor says there was a need to "Europeanise and internationalise" the GKN group, recession or not. The board had also decided to concentrate resources on fewer product areas. The result is that GKN, once known as a nuts and bolts company, and later a steel related company, is now firmly established as an automotive components company. "It used to be true that when the steel industry did well so did GKN," Sir Trevor says. "Now, if the automotive industry is successful, GKN will be successful."

The final piece of the jigsaw which has transformed the group will drop into place once the £67m deal to take over AE, its rival West Midlands auto components group, is completed. GKN's formal offer document will be posted to shareholders this week.

Sir Trevor dismisses criticism that GKN is getting AE too cheaply. The suggestion that GKN is an inferior technological partner to AE also touches a nerve. "AE has not had a world leader in technology like front-wheel drive, as we have," he says.

However, the AE deal is crucial on two counts. It provides GKN with a range of automotive components which cannot be matched by its competitors. The range includes bearings, pistons, and crankshafts. The deal also strengthens GKN's hand in overseas markets like the US and Europe, where AE is established.

Together, the companies will account for two-thirds of British auto components manufacture, and about 8 per cent of the car parts distribution business. However, any suggestion that

this would warrant investigation by the Monopolies Commission is countered by GKN on the grounds that component manufacture is an international business and that customers like Ford, General Motors and Renault are big enough to look after themselves.

Sir Trevor's few years as a chairman have made him something of an expert in rationalization techniques. "We have tried just about everything going," he says.

For instance, GKN coined the description Phoenix as code for the project to set up the joint venture Allied Steel and Wire company with British Steel in February 1981. Subsequently, Phoenix has become the generic name for any joint public and private sector projects to rationalize industry. Allied Steel and Wire has also become a remarkable success story.

This week, GKN was able to announce that Allied Steel and Wire is trading in the black for the first time in a sector which was losing £12m a year before the Phoenix project got off the ground.

Phoenix 2, the next of the joint schemes with British Steel, is likely to be agreed by November. This time, the aim is to create a company which will merge GKN and British Steel assets in the engineering steels industry, wiping out the third of the 2.6 million tonnes of capacity in the sector.

Hadfield, another private sector company, has already agreed to close its capacity in return for compensation of about £5m. But Sir Trevor is adamant that GKN's Brynbo steelworks, near Wrexham, which has operated profitably

throughout the recession, will survive as part of the plan.

GKN was also one of the first companies to be approached by Mr Peter Grant, a director of Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, when he launched initiatives to rationalize the foundry and castings industries.

Under the scheme, companies prepared to close capacity were paid compensation by those which kept capacity open.

At the same time, GKN was actively weeding out its peripheral activities. Sir Trevor says this process is nearly complete, although "one or two" more companies may have to go.

In future, an increasing proportion of the group's business will be overseas. Already 20 per cent of GKN's manufactures are exported and this figure will increase over the next few years.

This increasing emphasis on becoming a force in an international market means by necessity that GKN will not be tied to its traditional home in the West Midlands. "I don't think we see ourselves as a West Midlands company," Sir Trevor says. "With the acquisition of AE, we will become the largest employer in Bradford."

And, as if to emphasize the point, he adds: "That's where I was born."

But Sir Trevor does detect a new optimism at the sharp end of British industry in the West Midlands. There has been a rush of firms taking space in factories which GKN has converted into small units in Darlington and Wolverhampton.

Sir Trevor also believes managers have become more flexible. "I think that the

The new GKN is now benefiting from a gradual improvement in the British economy. Automotive components sales have been helped by the increase in British car production, with further improvements yet to come from increased demand for cars with the new A registration. United States demand is picking up slightly behind the recovery recorded at home.

However, when reporting interim pretax profits of £38.1m for the first half of 1983, compared with £30.5m at the same stage last year, the company stressed that demand remains low from the commercial vehicle and agricultural vehicle industries. This reinforces the warning about the grim trading outlook given by Leyland Vehicles.

But the pace is picking up. GKN made £28m of its interim profits in the second quarter of the year and this level of profit should be sustained in the second half.

Steel stockholding, forgings, the fastener business and distribution - all fared better than a year ago.

Sir Trevor also confidently maintains that the general economic indicators in Britain, West Germany and the United States remain encouraging and give confidence that today's modest recovery in activity will be sustained.

The challenge now facing British managers is to go out and win markets, Sir Trevor says. "The private sector has got rid of a lot of its costs and has managed to keep up its level of exports throughout the recession. For the first time in 20 years competitors are admitting Britain and saying how good it is."

British industry no longer has an excuse, Sir Trevor argues. The dollar is strong, interest rates are lower, there are no wage controls, or exchange controls. "We've got freedom," he says.

Tomorrow: TI Group

Industrial notebook

Changing attitudes on how engineers are trained

The Engineering Council, set up by the Government in the wake of the Finniston report into the role of engineering in Britain's poor manufacturing performance, is supposed to have a wider role than the organization it is supplanting, the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

Its brief is to change attitudes and stimulate practical alterations in industry, academia, the professional bodies within engineering and even in the City.

But, there is a danger, as it attempts to promote the cause of engineering, that, at best, the Council will achieve only a scattergun effect and, at worst, it will get lost in a miasma of generalities.

The first real chance to assess the Council's mettle has come with its policy statement on education and training.

It admits in advance that some industrialists are worried about what they regard as an elitist approach. That seems to mean that many employers do not want to see too many engineers with high academic qualifications emerging from the educational system with high-flown ideas of how much they should be paid or what industry should be doing.

The issue revolves around the Council's ideas for "enhanced" "extended" full-time degree courses. Enhancement means tacking on to engineering courses those elements which have tended to be lacking in the United Kingdom, such as aspects of design and grounding in management and business methods. Emphasis on actual applications of engineering is seen as the crucial element.

Extended courses would be four years instead of the usual three at universities and polytechnics. They would either allow studies of greater depth in a particular sector of a multi-disciplinary approach across a number of engineering sectors or course incorporating business skills.

A design project would be a part of any extended course. The Council sets great store by design, thus bringing market-place considerations to the fore, since this is seen as setting Britain on the road to a Technic culture of the kind which has so benefited countries like West Germany and France.

The Council's argument is that companies which have competed successfully are those committed to constant innovation springing from market-led research and development. Typically, in such companies, engineers have made a key contribution to success, rising to a high management level in the process. Hence the Council reasons that we need an increase in the number of graduate engineers able to reach high positions.

The fear of elitism could be misplaced. The Council says at most a fifth of university students and a tenth of those at polytechnics should be on extended courses. A graduate under the Council's proposals, would become Master of Engineering (M.Eng.).

From the "enhanced" three-year courses, or their sandwich equivalent, seen as the route for production the main body of professional engineers, would emerge Bachelors of Engineering (B.Eng.). Some-what hopefully seen as a cut above a B.Sc.

Extended courses are already being introduced at some universities with the support of the University Grants Committee. They account for about 5 per cent of present student engineers and this proportion should rise to 15 per cent when all the planned projects are fully operational. But although "enhanced", not all the courses yet go far enough in providing a broad base of engineering skills.

The Council's accreditation procedures, now being brought in, will weed out those not coming up to scratch.

One current problem is a tendency for extended courses to be introduced at the expense of student numbers, so as to stay within spending constraints. That can cut student numbers by a quarter. The Council wants the numbers kept up, which means more money has to be found from somewhere or that its plans are unrealistic.

The Council has been trying to find out what industry thinks about all this and discovered that employers favour either three-year, full-time courses or preferably, their sandwich equivalent.

So far Council has clearly failed to sell its ideas on extended courses to large numbers of employers. It admits an important test is how far employers will be willing to offer the right career opportunities to graduates. There is no sign at present that attitudes have changed dramatically.

It also remains to be seen how far companies will involve themselves at university and polytechnic level in designing the new-style courses.

Derek Harris

CONTROL SECURITIES p.l.c.

(Property Investment and Development)

1983 Highlights

	31st March '83	31st March '82
Turnover	£4.4m	£2.5m
Trading profit before taxation	1.5m	1.0m
Fully diluted earnings per share	6.09p	4.31p
Final dividend	3.15p	3.15p

- Pretax profits rose to £1.5m, up 47% on the previous year - over 10 times the profits in 1979.
- Rental income increased from £387,000 to £544,000 and will rise another £450,000 over the next 2 years.

5 years of continual growth

	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83
Profit before tax £000	141	502	635	1,007	1,483
Net earnings per share	1.39p	3.02p	3.47p	4.73p	6.09p
Net Dividend per share	0.59p	1.43p	2.10p	2.76p	3.15p

Roger Van DONINCK MA (Econ) Chairman

Control House, 10 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 7PJ

SVENSKA CELLULOSA AKTIEBOLAGET SCA

9% Convertible Subordinated Bonds 1998

NOTICE TO BONDHOLDERS

The Board of Directors of Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget SCA have decided to submit to an Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders to be held on September 1, 1983 proposals to (i) amend paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association of the company by an alteration of the nominal value of the shares of the company from Swedish Kronor 50 to Swedish Kronor 25 (sub-division) and (ii) to increase the share capital of the company through a bonus issue by converting to share capital proceeds from statutory reserves; whereby each holder of either A or B shares in the company - after the aforementioned sub-division - shall be entitled to receive one bonus share of a nominal value of Swedish Kronor 25 for each share of a nominal value of Swedish Kronor 25 previously held, such bonus share to be of the same class as the share previously held.

As a consequence of the proposed Bonus Issue a Closed Period in accordance with Condition 3 (b) (4) (B) of the Bonds will commence at 10.00 a.m. (Stockholm time) on August 22, 1983, and continue until the close of business on September 1st, 1983. Should the proposed Bonus Issue be approved by the Meeting, the Conversion Price of the Bonds will be subject to adjustment. In accordance with Condition 3 (a) (2) of the Bonds such adjustment will then take effect as from and including September 1, 1983.

Should the proposed sub-division of the nominal value of the shares be approved by the Meeting, the Record Date for the sub-division will be September 30, 1983 and the consequent adjustment to the Conversion Price in accordance with Condition 3 (a) (1) of the Bonds will become effective at the commencement of business (Stockholm time) on October 3, 1983.

Should the Meeting accept these proposals, the Conversion Price applicable as from and including September 1, 1983, after adjustment for the Bonus Issue, will be published on September 12, 1983 at the latest, and the Conversion Price applicable as from and including October 3, 1983, after the sub-division of the nominal value of the shares, will be published on October 13, 1983 at the latest.

Sundsvall, August 1983.
The Board of Directors

Now Istock may fight takeover

By Jeremy Warner

London Brick has built up a 4 per cent stake in Istock Johnson, ahead of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report due tomorrow. London Brick whether should be allowed to renew its takeover bid.

The purchase of the share stake suggests that London Brick is confident of getting the go-ahead from Mr Cecil Parkinson, Trade and Industry Secretary, despite the obvious, dilution of competition in the brick industry which a merger with Istock would cause.

Istock directors agreed last December to a £27m offer from London Brick but trading prospects improved so dramatically since then that they are now likely to oppose any renewed bid even at a Considerably higher level.

The City is expecting the Monopolies Commission also to clear a £115m bid by Hepworth Ceramic for another brick maker, Strætley by the end of October. If this occurs it raises the possibility of a considerable proportion of British brick industry changing hands within six months.

Several strategic shareholders have been built up in London Brick during the last four months and stockbroking analysts expect both suspected stakeholders, Hanson Trust and Tarmac, to make some form of intervention in any takeover battle that develops between London Brick and Istock.

In the stock market, Istock shares are trading near their year's high of 125p in anticipation of the Commission giving London Brick the green light.

National Leisure buys zoo

National Leisure Group, the new company whose chairman is Sir Fred Pontin, the one-time holiday camp tycoon, has made its first takeover of Scarborough's zoo and Marine Land. Talks are also going on about the acquisition of a tourist attraction in London and a theme park outside the capital. The company's authorized capital is being doubled to £10m.

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Putting ARC on the map

THE WEEK

Clive Cookson

Datapoint, the Texas office automation company, last week announced the installation of its 5,000th ARC local area network. At the same time the United Kingdom subsidiary sold the 200th ARC in Britain.

The significance of these figures, according to Datapoint, is that they outnumber all competing local area networks (LANs) put together. There is some justice in the complaints of Datapoint executives that ARC has not received the attention deserved by its success in the market, compared to the scores of competitors who may have sold a few networks such.

The LAN is a general method for connecting electronic equipment within an office so that users can exchange information and share resources such as printers and data files. Companies have come up with a bewildering variety of technical solutions to ensure that millions of bits of data per second can find their way to the correct destinations on the network buses, rings and stars; broadband and baseband; token passing and collision detection.

The only serious attempt to impose an industry standard on the chaos is Ethernet, a network invented by Xerox and now the basis of an international standard supported by three dozen significant computer manufacturers, including Britain's ICL.

"Ethernet is busy trying to tie up standards; we are the working standard," says Alan Watson, marketing services manager of Datapoint (UK). His dismissive comment may be valid in the short

term. The customer appeal of ARC today is that it is tried and tested, with a track record unrivalled by Ether or any other net.

But the long run interests of the industry and its customers must lie in an open standard accepted by a large number of manufacturers. And so far Ethernet is the only candidate, whatever the technical merits of its baseband CSMA/CD (carrier sense multiple access with collision detection) protocol.

The promise of "open systems interconnection" through a standard LAN is that the user can choose the best pieces of equipment from different suppliers and make them communicate as if they had all been made by the same company. But that advantage still lies in the future.

The electronic connectors required to attach the various terminals to Ethernet still cost too much for a mass market, though the price is falling fast as new chips are developed for the purpose. Connecting only one manufacturer's products in a proprietary network like ARC is obviously simpler.

Since Datapoint offers a reasonable range of processors and peripherals, customers do not have to make a great sacrifice to buy ARC. The 200th UK customer, E&F Quick Group (a Ford dealer based in Manchester), is buying £240,000 of Datapoint hardware based on a 6600 file processor with 120 mb of disc storage at its central parts warehouse; five applications processors, 41 visual display screens, 160 system printers, two high-speed printers and 13 parts terminals will be connected to the ARC.

An example of a smaller ARC is Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, which has just two terminals now to handle patient statistics and will have five when complete. The hardware for a simple system like that can cost under £10,000.

Datapoint's high-flying image crashed last year when profits slumped to a mere \$2.4m and the first half of this year was no better, with a profit of \$2.3m on worldwide sales of \$266m. Datapoint shares are still only a third of their peak 18 months ago.

Part of the retrenchment has been to stop in-house development of Datapoint's ISX digital telephone exchange, which the company announced in 1981 as an integral part of its office automation strategy. The ISX ran into technical problems at its test sites and the project has been sold to Tektronix, a small American electronics company, for further development. (However Datapoint does have sole international marketing rights to Tektronix products).

Therefore Datapoint remains dependent on ARC and its associated products. Its troubles last year have presumably delayed manufacturing outside the United States. But Mr Watson insists: "It is a stated aim of the corporation that we will manufacture in the UK in the not too distant future. It is part of our current five year plans."

Until Datapoint does establish a research, development or production presence here it is bound to be handicapped in the British market and particularly in the public sector. But that has not stopped the company selling a large ARC to the Ministry of Defence in London.

The games craze goes pop

By Frank Brown

You are a fighter pilot on a vital mission. Thousands of refugees are besieged by an enemy bent on genocide. You have to protect them from enemy attack.

The enemy has launched an offensive, and your job is to destroy the Exotron missile. Few would survive its exploding mass of evil plasma. A heavy responsibility, and it rests with the player of the latest computer game, Zoom, from Imagine Software of Liverpool.

Computer games are fast becoming a craze in Britain, and look as though they may take the place of pop records among the 14 to 24 age group, according to Imagine's general manager, Bruce Everiss.

"The record companies are experiencing a big drop in sales because more and more young people are becoming bored with pop and are turning to games on home computers," he says. "Indeed, many record companies are getting into computer games in order to survive". By the end of 1984 sales of computer games software will exceed those of pop records, he believes.

His confidence stems from Imagine's own phenomenal growth. The company started trading in January this year selling games on music-type cassettes at £3.50 each. Sales have mushroomed and turnover for the first year will be £5m.

"Initially the big market is the United States. But markets elsewhere are expanding rapidly, notably Japan and Australia," he says.

The games boom is a reflection of the enormous sales of home computers costing less than £250. There are more than

a million of these machines in Britain and the number is growing by thousands a week. Commodore is selling a million of its Model 64 machines every three months and, among numerous other international suppliers, Britain's Sinclair is producing some 100,000 Spectrum machines a month.

Thus the games boom will continue for some time and, as in the pop scene, fortunes will be made by those who devise top-selling games. The games

business already has its equivalents of the top-twenty record charts, and it seems that as in the pop scene, Liverpool is playing a leading role.

Again like the pop scene, success does not depend on academic qualifications. Aptitude for programming and imagination are what counts. Imagine's software development team are all self-taught programmers. The team's manager, Eugene Evans, is 17, and is earning £35,000 a year in salary and bonuses. The creator

of Zoom, John Gibson, is 36 and is a senior ceiling tractor who was bitten by programming bug when he bought a Sinclair ZX81.

Imagine's best selling game is Arcadia which, as its name implies, is similar to the ones played in arcades. Written by one of Imagine's founders, 23-year-old Dave Lawson, it is what's known as a "shoot up" game. The player has to shoot up masses of aliens in space. There are different levels of difficulty, and the player has to work his way up through the levels.

Everiss believes the computer games boom has evolved from the growth of leisure time, including the enforced leisure time of the unemployed. "Us, like pop records, games are participatory - like sports," he says. "The combination of colour, animation, sound and visual effects can be used to create a world of adventures and challenges which test players' skills and stimulate their imagination."

"Like pop records and tapes, however, games must have imaginative and colourful covers to attract sales. Almost as much time is spent designing the covers, packaging and publicity material as devising and testing the games themselves."

Imagine is also using its skills in managing its new found wealth. The group is already diversifying by setting up subsidiary companies to provide various services. An advertising agency and a packaging company have already been established. Others are on the way. The aim is to make each one self-sufficient so that less than half its turnover comes from business with the parent company.



Mark Butler and Dave Lawson: a new charts winner

But why can't I read it?

LETTERS

new ones. Almost always the computer department will be asked for such additions or amendments.

The future trend to "buy-in" software in some spheres is true. However Mr Jones believes that all companies will be able to run their payroll simply by buying a package called "Payroll". This is much too simple. Recently I spent about nine months investigating all available payroll packages only to find that none could meet the users' requirements. It was cheaper, easier and quicker to design and write our own payroll system than buy a "package" which might have provided 75 per cent of requirements, and because of its philosophy could never provide the missing 25 per cent.

Today's school children may have a computer at their school and a computer "lesson" once or twice a week, but this does

not mean that they will know how to program efficiently, and school lessons can never take the place of commercial experience.

High priority

From Professor D. E. Conway, School of Mathematics, Computing & Statistics, Leicester Polytechnic. Professor Emery's analysis (July 19) is incorrect because he has ignored the courses provided by the polytechnics and the effect of the Government's information technology initiative. It was crazy of the universities not to redirect resources to the computing area. The polytechnics faced with similar dilemmas over cuts have designated computing as a high priority area and thus the intake of new courses started in 1982. This year, following the IT initiative, some more new courses will start, eg BSc (Hons) Information Technology at Leicester, thus increasing the places available.

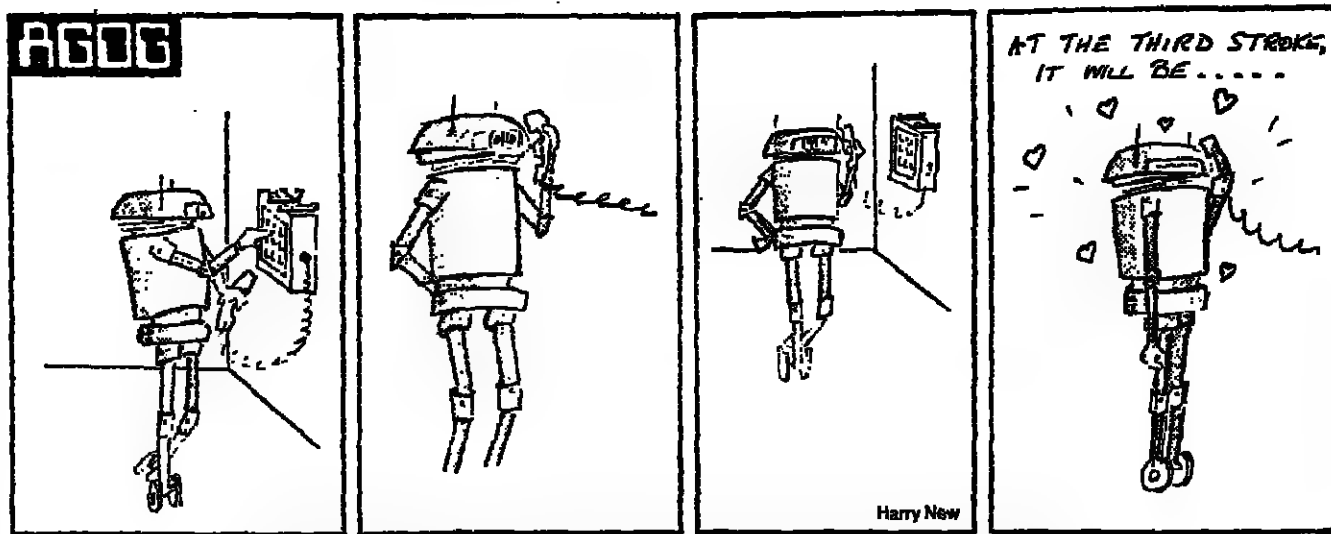
Of course I believe we should make more provision and hope that support will be given to those of us who have enough sense to protect our existing provision. With two decades of development we could sensibly

provide additional computer science places if the HE planners redirected some of their funds to this important subject "that industry desperately needs".

Outlook bright

From Leslie Wagner, Assistant Secretary (Academic), National Advisory Body for Local Authority Higher Education, Tottenham Court Road, W1.

The information given by Professor Emery that the number of students on computer science courses in universities will be lower in 1983 than in 1980, is disturbing. Your readers should know, however, that in the polytechnics and colleges the outlook is brighter with a significant increase in registered students over the same period. This sector of higher education is facing cuts of around 7 per cent in real terms over the next two years. However, the National Advisory Body for Local Authority Higher Education has identified computer studies as one of its priorities and is planning for an increase in intakes in the maths and computing area of some 4 per cent over the period. To this must be added the effects of the Government's information technology initiative which will provide for a further 1,200 students on courses at all levels from postgraduate to sub-degree in polytechnics and colleges in the next academic year.



Why communications must be kept clear of eavesdroppers

The key to keeping secrets secret

By Eric Huggins

The increasing use of data transmission and electronic mail has brought with it the necessity to protect communications from eavesdropping or, worse, from fraudulent distortion.

Several computer programmes have been developed which enable messages to be encrypted before transmission and deciphered on receipt. Since the programmes themselves are usually commercially available and thus "public", the security of their programs is vested in a "key" (a string of alphabetical or other characters) known only to sender and recipient.

In the United States one such program, developed by IBM, has now been published by the National Bureau of Standards as a Data Encryption Standard (DES). It requires a key of 56 bits (approximately ten alphanumeric characters). Since the difficulty of breaking such codes increases with the length of the key, it is reported that IBM proposed a longer key, but agreed to reduce it after representations from the National Security Agency.

Martin E. Hellman, a leading US cryptographer, believes that this was done to weaken the standard so that the agency could break the key if required. Most cyphers can eventually be broken. The cryptographer's

aim is to make the time so long or the resources so great that it would be "computationally infeasible" to try.

Such a claim is made for a recently published British program for microcomputers, Enigma, which simulates a modified version of the original German Enigma cypher machine. This program, in addition to having a key of 142 bits, incorporates all the improvements which, according to Gordon Welchman, a one time head at wartime Bletchley Park, would have made the war codes unbreakable.

Bletchley Park, whose resources included many of the finest British (and, later, American) mathematicians using the most advanced electro-mechanical computing equipment, regularly broke each new German key within 24 hours. It

is suggested that the modifications included in this computer version would extend this period to several million years, even allowing for today's vastly increased computing speeds.

The validity of this claim might be disproved in practice, but there is, as yet, no way of actually proving that it is true.

One area of research in the US is aimed at finding a method of proving the inviolability of encryption systems, or at least of getting a measure of their viability.

However, hard the cryptographer tries to improve the security of programs such as DES and Enigma, his work will not help if the key falls into the wrong hands.

Added protection can be given by splitting the key into two parts, as has been done in the Enigma program. This

makes "dual key control" possible and also means that no one person need ever know the whole key. But a much more interesting possibility lies in the "public key" systems being developed.

In these the key is also in two parts but, unlike the dual key method where both sending and receiving computers have to have access to both parts of the key, one part is used to "lock" the code and the other to "unlock" it. The recipient is provided with a program that enables him to generate both keys, but he alone needs to know the unlocking key.

The locking key may be sent to the sender over an insecure channel since, although in theory it would be mathematically possible to derive the unlocking key from the locking one, it is computationally infeasible to do so.

It has even been suggested that the locking, or public, key could be published - for example, in a trade directory or telephone book. But since the key for a secure system tends to be rather long (upwards of 200 digits), this does not seem to be very practical. Public key systems require a lot of computing power and it may be some years before they are available on small computers.

Getting down all the words, fast

by Maggie McLening

One of the Britain's largest word processing firms, the Central Electricity Generating Board, has extended its network of 90 machines to create an information service on the activities of the Sizewell B public inquiry.

Set up to examine the case for siting a nuclear power station based on a pressurised water reactor at Sizewell in Suffolk, the inquiry has been hearing evidence from the CEBG and other parties for several months. The original statement put forward by the CEBG is supported by 40 proofs of evidence, together with several hundred additional documents

specially prepared for the inquiry.

Before the opening of the main hearings at The Maltings, Snape, in January, the Department of Energy commissioned a Sheffield firm of shorthand writers, Harphams, to make a daily verbatim transcript of the proceedings. To cope with the mass of paperwork generated by an inquiry of this size, the CEBG installed 11 stand-alone Wordplex 80/3 word processors, one of which is linked to the CEBG's main Amdahl 470 V7 mainframe in Southwark, using IBM protocol emulation.

Five of the 11 word processors are in constant use by

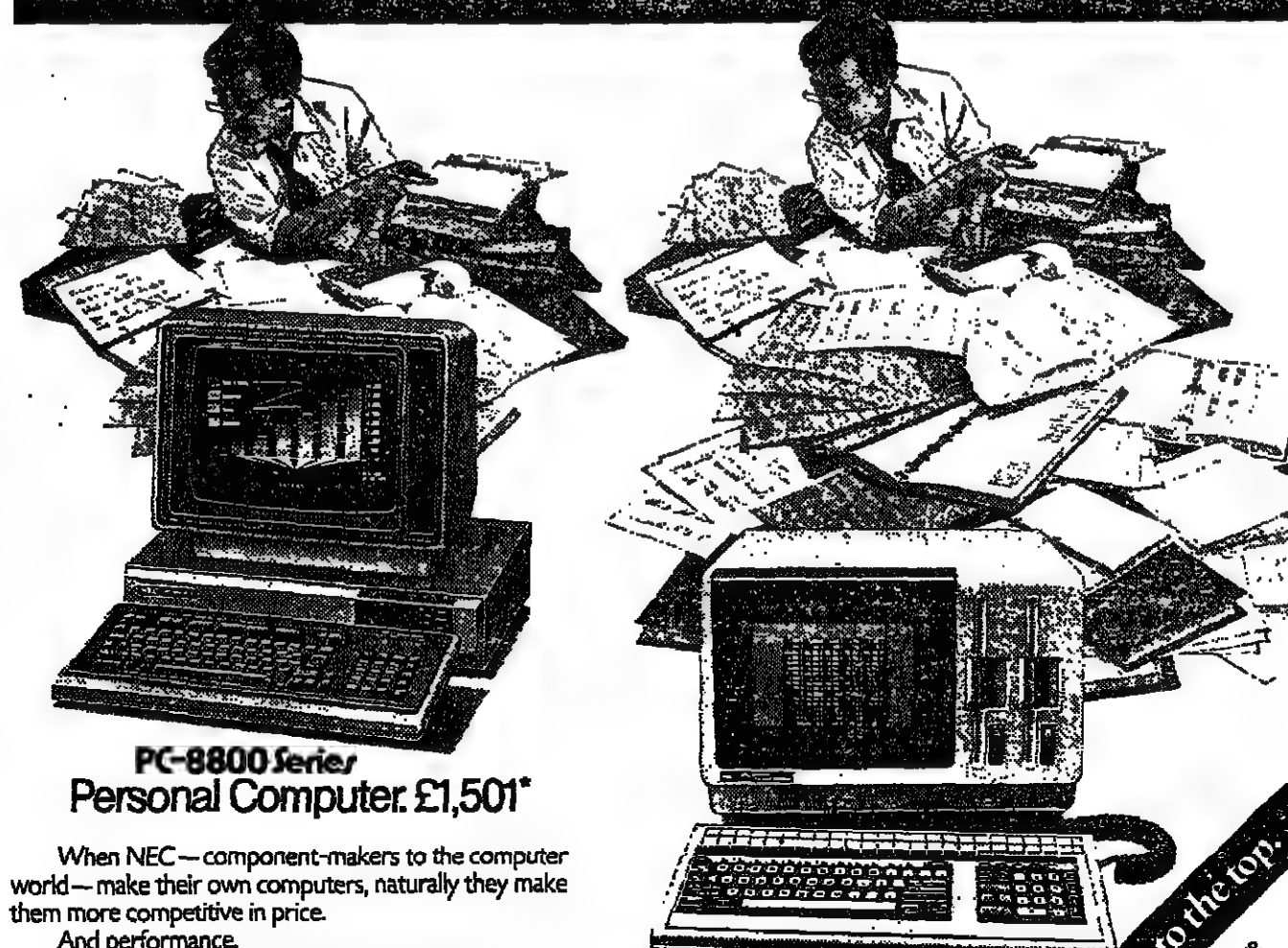
the transcript writing team, who work in 15 minute shifts to take notes in the auditorium, then translate them for input to floppy discs. Two additional staff merge the typed material to produce a complete transcript of the day's proceedings, consisting on average of 90 closely-typed pages.

By using the Wordplex system this can be ready for distribution within three hours of the end of the session. Without any additional typing help, the same information can be transmitted from the floppy discs to the CEBG's data management system in London. During June and July, the

Sizewell public inquiry moved to Church House, Westminster, and the word processors moved too. The CEBG has now transferred them back to Snape, where they will continue as long as proceedings last.

Internally, the CEBG has six secretarial pools devoted to shared logic word processing, producing reports, minutes or large-volume correspondence, and setting up banks of information. Using the Wordplex IBM emulation facilities, the CEBG is also able to merge data held on the computer with word-processed text and to transmit data (including Sizewell proceedings) to other CEBG sites around the country.

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